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Dagdag sa VAT: Kailanga nga ba?
CELLCARD KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! Text 2910 now!

Dinky's warning: Too much TV makes Junior a dull boy

IDIOT BOX ANG YAYA NYAN... KAYA BOBO YAN!

By Volt Contreras

WHAT'S wrong with Junior? He's shy and withdrawn especially in big crowds. He "looks past you" and can't seem to focus when spoken to, often replying in mono-

DINKY'S A7

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, February 26, 2005 ★★★ 84 pages / 11 sections Vol. 19 No. 80 P18

Pope breathing unaided after night of rest

ROME—Pope John Paul II was breathing unaided in hospital on Friday after emergency surgery to open up his airway, the Italian news agency Ansa reported.

As Catholics the world over prayed for the recovery of their spiritual leader, Ansa said the 84-year-old Pope's ability to breath without the aid of any respiratory support systems gave rise to "greater optimism" about his health.

The Pope was rushed to a Rome hospital for the second time this month on Thursday following a relapse of influenza and renewed respiratory problems.

In the evening, doctors performed a tracheotomy—cutting a hole in his windpipe—to stop him from choking and to let air flow directly to his lungs.

Doctors at Gemelli hospital said on Thursday night that the tracheotomy had been a success, but there has been no official word since then on the Pope.

Medical experts said the operation to open the Pope's throat showed he had been in danger and warned there was a "significant likelihood" he could develop pneumonia.

"A severe pneumonia can easily be life-threatening in someone of his age and condition," said Dr. Paul Larson, assistant professor of neurosurgery at

POPE/ A20

THE SPIRITUAL leader of the world's one billion Catholics well-known as a great communicator now faces the prospect of being unable to speak for months, maybe for years. AFP

Video gave Roldan away

THE ORIGINAL EDSA

Remembering songs, psalms, sleepless nights and a miracle

By Fe Zamora and Tarra V. Quismundo

NO ONE slept that night.

Not the journalists camped at the office of then Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos in Camp Crame. Not Ramos, and not then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile who, that afternoon, moved from Camp Aguinaldo to the smaller, and therefore easier to secure, police camp across the highway.

At dawn of Feb. 24, Ramos, chomping on a cigar, started urging the journalists to vacate the building. "They are going to hit us. Better leave now," he said.

But no one left the room. Someone said: If we have to become fertilizer here, so be it.

A suggestion was raised that everyone start praying the rosary. Still another suggestion—was it from Ramos?—came up: that we read passages from the Book of Psalms, such as "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge ...."

Reading passages from Psalm 91 at yesterday's commemoration of the 19th anniversary of Edsa I, Ramos evoked these memories of the longest three days and four nights of the Philippines' recent history.

"This is the soldiers' favorite," the former President said, perhaps to stress the point that Edsa I was as much a defining moment for the military as it was for ordinary Filipinos.

Even the songs sung yesterday served to remind everyone of that shining moment in 1986.

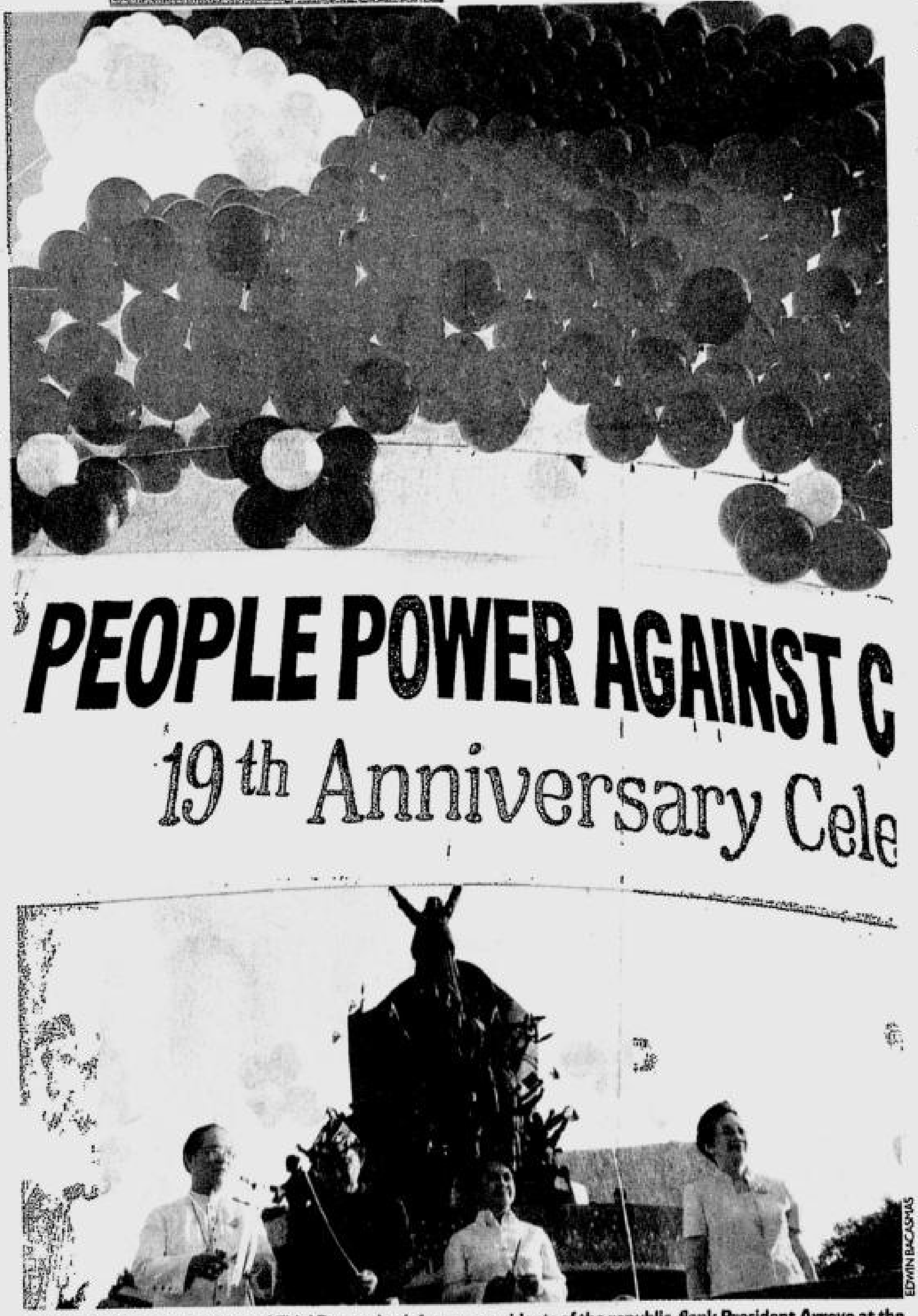
"The Impossible Dream" was Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.'s favorite song. Performed by Nolyn Cabahug, it rippled through the air just as Corazon Aquino unveiled her husband's bronze statue.

Or if not the song, then the songwriter. "Faith in the Filipino" was composed by the late Raul Manglapus, an opposition leader like Ninoy who also fought Ferdinand Marcos' strongman rule.

Manglapus' composition was interpreted by Von Arroyo.

Of course, "Bayan Ko," the anthem of the parliament of the streets, had to be sung—this time by Cocoy Laurel, son of the

REMEMBERING/ A8



EDWIN BACASMAS

EDSA I ICONS Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos, both former presidents of the republic, flank President Arroyo at the ceremonies marking the 19th anniversary of Edsa I. With Bishop Deogracias Iniquez, they release a giant flag made of balloons. Ms Aquino also unveiled a statue of Ninoy Aquino before delivering her speech. But Ms Arroyo limits her participation to the early morning flag-raising rites and the signing of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

Cory: No one can take Edsa away from us

INSTEAD of saying that Edsa I was a "bogus revolution" that merely worsened political, economic and social conditions, cynics should ask themselves: "Have we delivered?"

This was the rebuke aired yesterday by former President Corazon Aquino in a speech marking the 19th-anniversary celebration of the 1986 People Power uprising that toppled Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

"While I consider such comments as unfounded and unfair, I cannot do anything to change the minds of those armchair analysts who have made it their calling to sow despair and hopelessness as professional purveyors of gloom and doom," said the leading light of the bloodless revolt that served as inspiration to other countries struggling against oppression.

"Imagine what life could have been today had we not reclaimed our democracy 19 years ago. Maybe many of us would still be in jail," she said.

Clad in her trademark yellow, Ms Aquino spoke in defense of Edsa twice yesterday—in her speech after the unveiling of the Ninoy Aquino statue at the People Power Monument at 7:30 a.m., and

CORY/ A8

Surveillance tape shows ex-solon with kidnapped boy

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE said yesterday they had a surveillance tape showing former Congressman Dennis Roldan with the 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy he and his group are accused of kidnapping.

Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay said police took the video after getting a tip from an unnamed informant.

"There was an information given by a citizen who wanted us to solve the case," Aglipay said in a press conference. "We had a surveillance conducted and Dennis Roldan was seen with the child."

"We have ample evidence to nail down Roldan and Huang," he said, referring to the ex-lawmaker's former girl friend, Suzette See Huang, whom the police had also linked to the kidnapping.

Aglipay did not show the video to reporters.

Roldan's lawyer Salvador Panelo dismissed Aglipay's claim.

"Thats not true. My client is innocent," Panelo said.

Aglipay said the video was taken at a safe house in Pasay City, where the kidnappers allegedly had initially brought the boy after abducting him.

Sought out for details, Aglipay told the INQUIRER: "Neighbors reported to the police the presence of a Chinese-looking kid crying while in the company of two other kids who did not look like him."

He said that after getting the report, the PNP sent a surveillance team "which later caught on video Dennis and Suzette going in and out of the safe house."

VIDEO/ A6

Troops seize Abu Sayyaf stronghold

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KARAWAN COMPLEX, Indanan, Sulu—Government forces captured a major Abu Sayyaf camp in Jolo after killing or wounding 25 members of the group in more than a week of fighting, the military said yesterday.

Troops launched the operation against the Abu Sayyaf as fighting on a separate front between soldiers and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) forces loyal to jailed leader Nur Misuari waned.

Soldiers occupied the Abu Sayyaf's heavily fortified Camp Karawan here around 10 a.m. Thursday, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said.

He said troops, backed by heavy artillery, drove out the Abu Sayyaf gunmen but it was not clear exactly how many bandits had died because no cadaver was recovered.

Soldiers involved in the operation reported they saw the retreating bandits dragging

TROOPS/ A6

Cops find explosives in Taguig billiard hall

By Christian V. Esguerra and Nancy Carvajal

POLICE found before dawn yesterday a cache of bomb-making explosives, powerful enough to level two five-story buildings, after jittery residents reported finding an abandoned backpack in a billiard hall in Taguig.

Authorities were checking if the explosives, which had not yet been assembled into a bomb, were meant for use during the Valentine's Day bombing in Makati or to disrupt yesterday's 19th-anniversary celebration of the Edsa People Power Revolution.

Six hours before the start of the celebrations at Edsa, police found 10 to 15 kilograms of pyrotechnic powder stuffed in a metal can, 2 kilograms of TNT and 90 blasting caps in a black backpack in a billiard hall located at Block 9, Lot 5, Phase 1 Enlisted Personnel Housing, in Western Bicutan at about 1 a.m. yesterday.

Supt. Ramon Reyes, the Taguig police chief, said the police acted on a tip-

COPS/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/26/05

Leave now, Filipinos in Sabah told

By TJ Burgonio

COME out in the open, pack your bags and leave.

The Philippine mission to Malaysia yesterday issued this last call to the thousands of undocumented Filipinos mostly working in Sabah with only a few days to go before the March 1 crackdown on illegal migrants.

"We're appealing to them to take advantage of the leniency, go home, get the necessary documents and go back as legalized workers," Foreign Undersecretary Jose S. Brillantes said in a phone interview from Sabah.

"There are consular teams roaming around in Sabah to look for Filipinos and convey the message to them to take advantage of Malaysia's generosity," he said.

Malaysian officials had assured illegal foreign workers they would be given priority in job placement if they come back as legal entrants after voluntarily returning home during the amnesty program.

After extending its amnesty program twice from October last year to January and suspending the crackdown since Feb. 1, Malaysia is set to resume its nationwide sweep of illegal foreign workers on Tuesday.

So far, only 8,000 of the estimated 170,000 to 300,000 undocumented Filipinos have taken up Kuala Lumpur's offer of amnesty and left the country since October, foreign affairs officials said.

Brillantes, head of a mission now engaged in talks with Malaysian officials to ensure the orderly repatriation and return of the Filipino workers, said processing centers were being set up in the South to fast-track their legalization.

A processing center will be set up in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, to issue passports and other travel documents to those who have valid petitions to return to work, in addition to a similar center established in Zamboanga City, he said.

"We're thinking of setting up a third one in case the volume increases," said Brillantes, who is in Malaysia with Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson and Social Welfare Undersecrerary Celia Yangco.

The one-stop processing centers are manned by personnel from the Department of Foreign Affairs, National Statistics Office, National Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Muslim Affairs, among other agencies.

In Manila, officials remained hopeful Malaysia would move back the date of the enforcement of the crackdown.

"We hope they will still continue to employ the soft approach," said an official, who asked not to be named, referring to Malaysia's tack of advising illegal migrants spotted on the streets to leave within seven days or face deportation later.

If Malaysia pushes through with the crackdown, teams will be posted in Sabah and other departure points to issue travel documents to the repatriates, among other contingency plans, officials said.

"We will prepare boats, use commercial lines and combine forces with all the government agencies, but only in the event that it becomes necessary," Brillantes said when asked if sending Navy boats to ferry the repatriates home remains an option.

Manila has a "tacit agreement" with Kuala Lumpur that only "a manageable number" of illegal migrants would be repatriated at a time on commercial vessels that ply the Sandakan-Zamboanga route twice a week, officials said.

Under Malaysia's current policy, illegal workers rounded up during the crackdown would be charged in court, face fines or a jail term, and then be deported.

"The possibility of going back to Malaysia will depend on the decision of the Malaysian Cabinet," said the official, who requested anonymity.

A REPRESENTATIVE from the Department of Social Welfare and Development briefs some of the 65 Filipinos who were deported from Malaysia, on their arrival aboard a commercial ship in Zamboanga City Wednesday.

AFP

Francis Garchitorena, 67

FORMER Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena died last night after a battle with cancer, his family said.

The 67-year-old jurist, who was one of the most active and vocal protesters against the Marcos dictatorship, died at 8:45 p.m. at the Makati Medical Center, a spokesperson for the family said.

Ironically, he died on the anniversary of the 1986 "people power" revolt which led to the ouster of Marcos.

"He went peacefully. He was spiritually and mentally prepared and he was surrounded by his loved ones when he died," the spokesperson told the INQUIRER. "His whole family was there."

"He had known for a while that he had terminal cancer."

Garchitorena was diagnosed on Jan. 17 as having brain tumors, the spokesperson said.

Garchitorena was one of the many professionals who joined protest rallies against the dictatorship after opposition leader Benigno Aquino was assassinated in 1983 upon his return from voluntary exile in the United States.

He was born Jan. 8, 1938 in Kobe, Japan.

Garchitorena bowed out of the judiciary in October 2002 six years ahead of the mandatory retirement age.

'Delicadeza'

He retired after he conceded that he could not meet the Supreme Court's deadline for him to dispose of the backlog of cases at the Sandiganbayan First Division, which he also chaired.

In a speech during a farewell party for him attended by fellow magistrates and court employees, (now retired) Justice Raoul Victorino said Garchitorena's exit after heading the antigraft court for 16 years "activated the doctrine of delicadeza."

"The premature resignation of Mr. Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena is more about self-respect than a sad experience . . . In the epic clash between conscience and convenience, PJ Francis chose conscience," Victorino said.

"Like any human being . . . PJ Garchitorena had his own faults and frailties. But intellectual dishonesty, betrayal of public trust and professional cowardice are not among them," he said.

Discipline, professionalism

In his farewell remarks, Garchitorena said that "many rocks were thrown at me, lightning bolts hit me."

His main achievement, Garchitorena said, was that Sandiganbayan personnel became known for their discipline and professionalism under his watch.

A man known for his sharp wit, Garchitorena was asked shortly before he left the judiciary what he intended to do after a legal career of almost 40 years.

"I might consider returning to private law practice," he said. "But then, as I always told you, the only other job I know is to be a taxi driver since I know the streets of Manila very well."

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DOJ finds NBI findings on Luisita violence credible

By Philip C. Tubeza

CREDIBLE.

This was how Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez described the National Bureau of Investigation's findings that nine policemen should be charged for the violent dispersal of a workers' strike at the Hacienda Luisita last November.

Gonzalez said the he would review the NBI recommendation but would also wait for Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay's own report on the dispersal before he decides on what to do with the case.

"Personally, the NBI finding is more credible since (the agency) was not involved in the dispersal. However, I want to check the police's own investigation about what happened," he said.

The NBI had recommended that nine policemen be charged with multiple homicide, frustrated and attempted homicide, and physical injuries for the death of seven workers and the wounding of 36 others during the dispersal on Nov. 16.

Gonzalez said he had requested Aglipay to furnish him with the copy of the PNP findings on the incident.

"I have not yet received a copy of the PNP report. Their reports might collide. These are matters of interpretation," he said.

Gonzalez said that he would try to find out if the policemen violated the rules of engagement when they dispersed the workers.

Only 30% practice birth control

DOH commissioned SWS poll held nationwide

By Norman Bordadora

SEVEN out of 10 Filipino adults shun any form of birth control, according to the latest Social Weather Stations survey on family planning.

The survey, commissioned by the Department of Health for the fourth quarter of 2004, showed that only 30 percent of Filipino adults currently use family planning methods.

The results were based on interviews with 1,200 household heads by the SWS from Nov. 23 to Dec. 2 last year. The survey was conducted nationwide in the four "major study areas" of Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The survey showed that the most widely used method is the use of birth control pills with 14 percent of respondents saying it is their way of family planning while the least preferred is the use of condom with only 2 percent of respondents using this method.

Four percent use the intrauterine device, or IUD; four percent, the calendar or rhythm method; and three percent each for the withdrawal method, injectibles and ligation.

The survey said there are less respondents from Metro Manila (24 percent) who use a family planning method than those from Mindanao (41 percent).

Moreover, only 26 percent of those from the ABC classes use a family planning method compared to 41 percent from the E class.

A large majority or 82 percent of those surveyed said they learned about the method they are using from the public sector, particularly from the barangay health stations and urban health centers.

"Half (55 percent) of Filipino adults say they are willing to pay for their own family planning method compared to 44 percent who say otherwise. Willingness to pay for own method is high is NCR and Luzon compared to other areas," the SWS said.

The SWS survey had a 95 percent confidence level and a margin of error of plus or minus three percent at the national level and plus or minus six percent within Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Asked whether or not a door-to-door family planning education by the DOH will help Filipino families, an overwhelming 96 percent of the respondents said they are optimistic it will help.

"This pattern is true across all areas and socioeconomic characteristics," the SWS said.

The family planning campaign has yet to be implemented when the survey was conducted.

NEWSBRIEFS

GMA backs Purisima

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is backing Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima's move to name his own man to replace National Treasurer Norma L. Lasala who has whipped up a storm on her unceremonious ouster. "The President has given the go-signal to Secretary Purisima," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in reply to questions regarding Purisima's decision to appoint former Citibank Treasurer Omar Cruz as National Treasurer. "That is the choice of Secretary Purisima and the President is supporting him." Bunye, however, said that the President wants Purisima to "handle" the exit of Lasala who has refused to budge from her seat quietly. "This will be decided in a way that will be beneficial to all concerned." Lasala, who has been on her post for only three months, has locked horns with the finance secretary on his proposal to transfer custodianship of registered debt papers to handpicked private banks.

Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

Probe sought on toll fees

TWO MEMBERS of the House of Representatives have sought an inquiry into the over 500 percent increase in toll fees being charged by the Manila North Tollways Corp. at the North Luzon Expressway. Apec party-list Rep. Ernesto Pablo and Bulacan Rep. Pedro Pancho are both questioning the increase, saying this would raise transport fares and the prices of agricultural products from Central and Northern Luzon. "Prices of agricultural products coming from the Cordillera, Pangasinan and other Ilocos provinces and Central Luzon will increase while public utility vehicles will demand for an increase in transport fares," Pablo said.

Cynthia D. Balana

Co-ops set protest vs taxes

COOPERATIVES have renewed their opposition to the tax proposals of the government. Calling itself the United Cooperative Movement, the group said it has called for a national day of protest on March 2 to manifest its vigorous opposition to the government's tax proposals. The group, composed of 17 national cooperative organizations and three party-list groups in Congress, is protesting the proposal of the Department of Finance to repeal Articles 61 and 62 of Republic Act No. 6938 or the Cooperative Code, which provides tax exemptions to co-ops. The co-ops are also opposing Senate Bill No. 1838, which seeks to lift the VAT exemptions of agricultural, credit and electric cooperatives. Simultaneous rallies and pickets will be held in Cauayan, Isabela; Naga City, San Jose, Antique and Iloilo City; Bacolod City; Cebu City; Tagbilaran City; Tacloban City; Cagayan de Oro, and Davao City, involving 100,000 co-op members.

Informatics man honored

INFORMATICS franchisee Daniel Ongchoco was recently voted Franchisee of the Year for the Service Category in this year's Franchise Excellence Awards by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA). Ongchoco is the President of GNO Tech Resources, Inc., the holding company that operates the largest franchise network of Informatics in the Philippines which include two International Colleges, one Computer Institute, two Professional Development Centers and three CAL Computer Schools. Ongchoco has consistently dominated the in-house Informatics Philippines Awards since its Inception in 2001—copping a grand slam of sorts in 2003 by winning for the third straight year the Informatics Philippines Franchisee of the Year award.

CA junks plotter's bid

THE COURT of Appeals has dismissed the petition for habeas corpus of suspected coup plotter Lt. Col. Oscarlito P. Mapalo, who had gone missing. In a 12-page decision, the appellate court's former 16th Division dismissed Mapalo's motion for lack of merit, noting he had escaped from his military custodians on Dec. 21. "Mapalo had already escaped from confinement. This fact, regardless of how petitioner vainly and frivolously claim otherwise, is sufficiently established by the records. As such, Mapalo, having shunned from his confinement, cannot now seek refuge from the courts," said the decision penned by Justice Josefina Guevarra-Salonga. Mapalo was allegedly one of two officers involved in a destabilization plot against the government. Mapalo's lawyer Homobono Adaza filed a petition for habeas corpus.

Philip C. Tubeza

DepEd's 'love bonus' out

ACTING Budget Secretary Mario Relampagos yesterday said the Department of Budget and Management has already released the cash requirement for the grant of the P3,000 Productivity Enhancement Pay of 1,402 permanent, contractual, and casual employees of the Department of Education (DepEd)-Central Office and 41 employees of its attached agency, the Philippine High School for the Arts. Reacting to reports that employees of the DepEd Central Office are planning to go on strike due to the non-receipt of the PEP, Relampagos said there is no need for them to resort to such move

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ANTICORRUPTION DRIVE

Gov't to seize 'dirty' assets

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT will demonstrate its seriousness about combating official corruption by filing forfeiture proceedings against at least five ranking civilian and military officials.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the five include military officers and sub-Cabinet officials already facing graft charges.

Malacañang will release the names of the officials in a week or two, and former Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia is presumed to be one of them.

Bunye said the government would proceed with forfeiture even while the graft charges are still being heard.

"We don't know what form this will take. Of course this will have to go through the regular courts. But we're just letting you know that at least five will be targeted for forfeiture," Bunye said at a press briefing.

"The important thing is we will make sure that they will not profit from illegally acquired properties," he said.

The amount of the illegally acquired wealth targeted for forfeiture involves "fairly large operations," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday signed the United Nations Convention Against Corruption during the rites to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution.

Ms Arroyo led a government-sponsored anticorruption rally at the Edsa Shrine last Tuesday, to mark the first day of the peaceful revolt that toppled the Marcos dictatorship 19 years ago.

The UN convention represents the collective desire of nations to work together in combating corruption and provides for mechanisms to prevent corruption and make it difficult for corrupt officials to profit from their illegal acts.

By signing the official text of the convention, the President was conveying to the Senate her request for it to ratify the convention so the "instrument of ratification" can be sent to the UN.

The Philippines signed the convention on Dec. 9, 2003, joining 118 countries that have signed it.

The UN needs 30 "instruments of ratification" for the convention to take effect. Only 19 countries have sent their instruments of ratification.

Indon grafters more patriotic than RP crooks?

By Armand N. Nocum

ALTHOUGH Indonesians are perceived to be more corrupt than Filipinos, Indonesian grafters are more patriotic than our own, antigraft advocates revealed in a series of seminars recently.

According to the 2004 Transparency International's corruption perception index, Indonesia and the Philippines ranked 3rd and 6th among the most corrupt countries in Asia.

However, an antigraft lecturer said Filipinos who engage in large-scale corruption tend to siphon away a substantial portion of their loot abroad.

"Here, the stolen money is brought to Switzerland. There is capital flight. In Indonesia, the corrupt invest their money or put up businesses that create jobs (in their country)," said Ronnie V. Amorado, facilitator of the antigraft seminar series "Ehem!-Aha!"

The seminar series is a joint project of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Philippine Jesuits.

Corrupt Indonesian officials deduct their bribe from the contractor's profit, Amorado said. Here, corrupt officials set aside 10 to 15 percent of the project cost—especially road projects—for themselves, resulting in the construction of substandard highways.

This, in turn, will allow them to earn more from "maintenance" funds allocated for the repair of substandard roads, he added.

"Although Indonesia has problems with corruption, they are more progressive and have better infrastructure than we do," Amorado said.

Filipinos send a sizeable portion of their ill-gotten wealth abroad, so the country remains poor, seeing little of the $2 billion (or more than P100 billion) that the World Bank says is lost to graft here annually, he added.

In a 2000 study, the World Bank said Filipinos lost $48 billion to corruption in 20 years, an amount exceeding the country's US$40.6 billion foreign debt.

In another antigraft forum, Pauline Tamesis, anticorruption, accountability and transparency policy adviser of the United Nations Development Program, said the Philippines is not the only country whose grafters hide stolen assets abroad.

In Peru, some $255 million of $1 billion stolen from the country during the term of former President Fujimori was "traced to bank accounts in Switzerland, the United States and the Caribbean."

Tamesis said the most potent solution to eradicate graft is for governments to secure the conviction of these high-profile officials.

Poll says clan feuds main cause of ARMM violence

By Volt Contreras

FAMILY or clan feuds, more than military operations or friction between Muslims and Christians, are the main cause of violence in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, according to the Social Weather Stations.

Violence is also "twice as common" in the ARMM as in the country as a whole, the SWS said, citing its recent surveys on conflict resolution focusing on Mindanao.

An overwhelming segment—72 percent—of the ARMM population approve of carrying out personal retribution for a family member who was murdered, raped or hurt, while 59 percent of Filipinos in general disapprove of personal vendettas.

However, Carmen Abubakar, dean of the UP Institute of Islamic Studies, said "this is not because Muslims are more violent by nature."

"The faulty formal justice system in ARMM leaves people there with hardly any option but to settle serious grievances themselves," Abubakar explained.

Conflict between families or between clans, called *rido*, has been experienced by 28 percent of ARMM families.

Twenty percent of ARMM people experienced violence due to conflict between Muslim rebels and the military, the second most common source of violence in the region.

Neighborhood violence due to crime has been experienced by 9 percent of ARMM families, while only 5 percent of them were caught in hostilities between Muslims and Christians.

In a similar survey conducted on a nationwide scale, family-related violence was reported by 16 percent of families in the Philippines as a whole, while violence from crime was experienced by only 4 percent.

2 opposition senators pushing for Marshall Plan for Mindanao

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN YET another attempt at solving the Moro conflict, the opposition bloc in the Senate is pushing for a Marshall Plan for troubled Mindanao.

Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the plan sought a two-step Mindanao Agenda: Isolate the extremists and implement a massive socioeconomic program for the region.

"We need a socioeconomic agenda with the scope, reach and breadth of a mini-Marshall Plan," said Angara, chair of the Senate committee on the peace process.

"A purely military solution would not work. It failed to work in the past and is not tenable at present," said Angara, explaining that the social and economic problems in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao" are at the root of the region's bloody and troubled history and these problems should be considered by government policy-makers now working to bring peace to the troubled region."

While government should wipe the extremists, the military strategy should be complemented by the implementation of a socioeconomic program including the grant of additional development funds for the violence-prone region, said Angara.

As part of the economic component, Malacañang should supplement this year's P6.6 billion budget of the ARMM which "is too meager to address the concerns of the region," said Pimentel.

Pimentel, leader of the minority bloc in the Senate and lone senator from Mindanao, bewailed that the ARMM budget has remained the same since 2003 although Basilan and Marawi City were made part of the autonomous region as a result of the plebiscite in 2003.

He said there had been no increase in the funding allocation for ARMM because the 2005 national budget was merely a reenactment of the 2004 budget, which in turn was also a reenactment of the 2003 budget.

(The Marshall Plan was the brainchild of US State Secretary George C. Marshall who proposed massive economic aid to help the European countries recover from the devastation suffered during World War II.)

OPEN LETTER TO MINISTER OF MALAYSIA, DATUK AZMI KHALID, FROM THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ASIA PACIFIC SECTION DIRECTORS

For more information, visit www.amnesty.org or the Amnesty International Pilipinas' National Secretariat at # 17B Kasing-kasing st., cor. K-8th, Kamias, Quezon City
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email: amnestypilipinas@meridiantelekoms.net

28 February 2005

Y.B. Datuk Azmi Khalid
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs (Menteri Dalam Negeri)
Malaysia

Dear Minister,

We, the directors of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific sections, are collectively writing to you to express our concern about the planned deportation of hundreds of thousands of migrants from Malaysia. Amnesty International notes your government's recent decision to adopt a "softer approach" in the short term to persuade undocumented migrants to leave Malaysia. However, we remain gravely concerned that refugees asylum-seekers and migrants caught up in any large-scale deportation operation are still at risk of serious human rights violations.

While we recognize the Malaysian government's sovereign right to control its borders, we appeal to you to halt any deportations until it can be guaranteed that the fundamental human rights of all refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, including undocumented migrants, will be respected in this process.

We urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that the following fundamental human rights are fully respected:

- No asylum-seekers, refugees or others should be forcibly returned to their country of origin, or to any other country, including to Indonesia, Nepal or Myanmar, where they would be at risk of serious human rights violations. All refugees and asylum-seekers must have full access to UNHCR for a fair determination process of their refugee claim;
- No undocumented migrant workers should be expelled from Malaysia without having the opportunity to have their individual circumstances fully examined in a fair and independent process, which allows for the right of appeal;
- No one should be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during arrest, detention or through caning under the Immigration Act. The risk of abuses due to poor training and lack of accountability have increased in light of recent reports that the authorities intend to equip members of the People's Volunteer Corps with firearms;
- Those detained under the Immigration Act must have the right to a fair trial, including the right to be presumed innocent, the right to inform relatives of arrest and place of detention, and the right to legal counsel;
- No one should be subjected to inhuman or degrading detention conditions prior to or during deportation. Particular care should be taken to ensure that all detainees, especially women and children, are provided with adequate nutrition, sanitation, bedding and medical care.

Yours sincerely,
Directors of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific sections

Mara Moustafine - Australia, Sisi Liu Pui-shan - Hong Kong, Raj Doctor - India, Makoto Teranaka - Japan, Julian Jayaseela - Malaysia, Altantuya Batdorj - Mongolia, Ced Simpson - New Zealand, Nafees Ghaznavi - Pakistan, Jessica Soto - Philippines, Catherine Kim - South Korea, Joyce Tseng - Taiwan, Boonthan Verawongse- Thailand

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Video gave Roldan away

From page A1

ROLDAN was seen with Huang.

The video also caught Roldan with the boy, Aglipay said.

Director Robert Delfin, head of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer), confirmed to the INQUIRER that his group had possession of such a tape.

Aglipay said the tape was among several pieces of evidence the Pacer team had against Roldan, Huang and other members of their group.

Aglipay gave Huang an ultimatum until Monday to appear at the Pacer headquarters in Camp Crame.

"I appeal to Suzette to come on Monday to give her statement on her participation in the kidnapping, if there is any," he said.

Why no charges?

If she fails to show up, he said police would be "constrained to issue a subpoena and file charges against her."

Ignoring the invitation would also be an "aggravating circumstance" in the criminal charges the Pacer was preparing against Huang, Aglipay said.

Police have not fully explained why, if they have evidence against Huang, they have not filed any case against her.

In a television interview after being discharged Thursday from a hospital following an alleged suicide attempt, Huang denied involvement in the kidnapping.

Her lawyer said she was ready to face charges against her.

Huang, said to be a childhood friend of the kidnapped boy's mother, maintained her innocence in an interview on GMA 7 yesterday.

"I doubt if [she] would believe it [that I am involved]," Huang said, referring to the boy's mother. "I cannot do anything to really harm her."

Referring to Roldan, Huang said: "We're very good friends. He's my ex-boyfriend."

"I'm not angry at him ... We didn't really fight when we broke up."

Immigration watch list

Referring to reports about her own family problem and that she had tried to kill herself, Huang said: "I was really disturbed ... My family is *gulong-gulo* (very bothered). My kids had to stop their studies [and] to leave the country. I cannot bear [it]..."

Besides the surveillance tape, police also said they had testimonial evidence pointing to Roldan and Huang's alleged involvement in the kidnapping.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has ordered the Bureau of Immigration to put Huang on its watch list.

Gonzalez said Huang should be included on the watch list so that the authorities would immediately be alerted if she tried to leave the country.

"The watch list is for monitoring purposes. It's not a court-issued hold-departure order so we cannot prevent her from leaving," Gonzalez said.

However, Gonzalez said immigration agents had the "discretion" to try to delay her from leaving.

"They can hold her on the ground and let her lawyers question it. By that time, maybe the inquest proceedings would have been finished," Gonzalez said. "That is why I wanted her picked up and interrogated [on Thursday] but that did not happen."

Gonzalez said he was wondering why Huang did not undergo inquest proceedings after she was discharged from the hospital.

All ports alerted

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. placed Roldan and Huang under watch list order #AFF-05-159 issued Feb. 24.

Fernandez's directive to the immigration heads of all airport terminals and other ports read:

"Acting on the information that subjects were allegedly involved in the abduction of a three-year-old Filipino Chinese boy for which they were arrested and investigated by the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NKTAF), we hereby order the inclusion of the names of Mitchell Yap Gumabao (alias) Dennis Roldan and Suzette See Wang in the Bureau's watch list."

Ferdinand Sampo, head of immigration at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, said his office had since corrected Wang's name to Huang.

Jail readied

Security measures are now in place at the Quezon City Jail in case there is a court order for Roldan to be confined at the prison facility, a jail official said.

The jail official, who asked not to be named, said that as part of the jail's standard operating procedure, Roldan and the others would first be brought to the "Cuerna," a cell for detainees who do not belong to any gang.

Roldan will not be given preferential treatment, the official added.

He also said security would be heightened to prevent any untoward incident.

As part of the security measures, Roldan and his co-respondents will not be allowed to stay together in one cell, the official said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Nikko Dizon and Tina G. Santos*

Troops overrun Abu Sayyaf stronghold in Indanan, Sulu

From page A1

away their dead or wounded comrades, the Southcom chief said.

Interviewed separately by reporters at Camp Aguinaldo, Braganza put the number of insurgents killed at 10, based on intercepted radio messages among the guerrillas.

Main lair

About 70 combatants—including 31 soldiers—were killed in fighting earlier this month between government forces and pro-Misuari guerrillas elsewhere in Jolo.

"We have deprived them of their main lair and sanctuary and we will continue to hunt them down. They may run, but they can never hide," Braganza said.

Braganza credited the battle-weary 53rd Infantry Battalion, led by Maj. Feliciano Tabanao, and the 75th Infantry Battalion for the capture of the Abu Sayyaf camp.

Tabanao had replaced the injured 53rd IB commander Maj. Emmanuel Sison, who had taken over the unit after its commander, Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva, was killed in an ambush.

On the run

"We are now operating in their sanctuary. They are really on the run," Braganza said.

Another military commander described the Abu Sayyaf stronghold as "an old MNLF camp."

"We seized the camp while they were on the retreating stage," said Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Joint Task Force Comet.

Military reports said the Abu Sayyaf group was led by commanders Gumbahali Jumdail, alias Dr. Abu Pula, and Albader Parad.

Tabanao, the third commander of the 53rd IB in less than a month, described Camp Karawan as about 10 to 15 hectares wide.

The camp was fortified with about 100 bunkers, which dotted its 5-km radius.

Heavily fortified

Some foxholes could accommodate 10 to 15 persons and were covered with heavy metal sheets.

"Even mortar shells could not destroy the cover of the foxholes," Capt. Abe Sirajan, deputy commander for planning and operations of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, told the INQUIRER.

Aside from the bunkers, reporters saw a mosque, a conference hall that could accommodate around 100 persons, a recreation area, where soccer balls and volleyballs were recovered, and a clinic.

TROOPS and armor roll into Abu Sayyaf territory in Camp Karawan in Indanan, Sulu.

AFP

The area is also covered with thick vegetation mostly bamboo, teakwood and some fruit trees.

The camp could not be spotted from the air because it was hidden by trees.

Braganza called the capture of the camp a major setback for the Abu Sayyaf.

Basilan clash

Col. Nehemias Pajarito, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said it would now be easier for the military to run after the Abu Sayyaf.

Elsewhere, two Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed in a clash between soldiers and the group on Thursday in Tuburan, Basilan.

Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Bacarro said elements of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion (IB) were on combat operations along Sitio Bakud in Barangay Pintasan when they chanced on the group.

The clash lasted for about 15 minutes with the bandits withdrawing toward a northeasterly direction.

"No casualty was reported on the government side while commander Jacob Asmaul and one of his comrades were killed during the encounter," Bacarro said.

Relocation for civilians

Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said the captured Abu Sayyaf camp could be used as a relocation for civilians displaced by the recent fighting.

More than 30,000 people have fled their homes in at least nine towns of the province after violence broke out two weeks ago.

"We will build commercial structures here, improve the roads and install utility services like water and power and preserve the vegetation, especially the fruit trees. These could be a source of livelihood for the people," Loong said.

Malacañang said yesterday it was on top of the situation in Sulu.

"We can say in general terms that the government forces are in control of the situation," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Shared information

"The AFP brass are following the instructions of the President as far as the Sulu situation is concerned. She is still awaiting the assessment of the military and defense establishments on the Sulu situation," Bunye said.

Bunye said that the Philippine government had made full use of information shared by the American government in the Sulu operation.

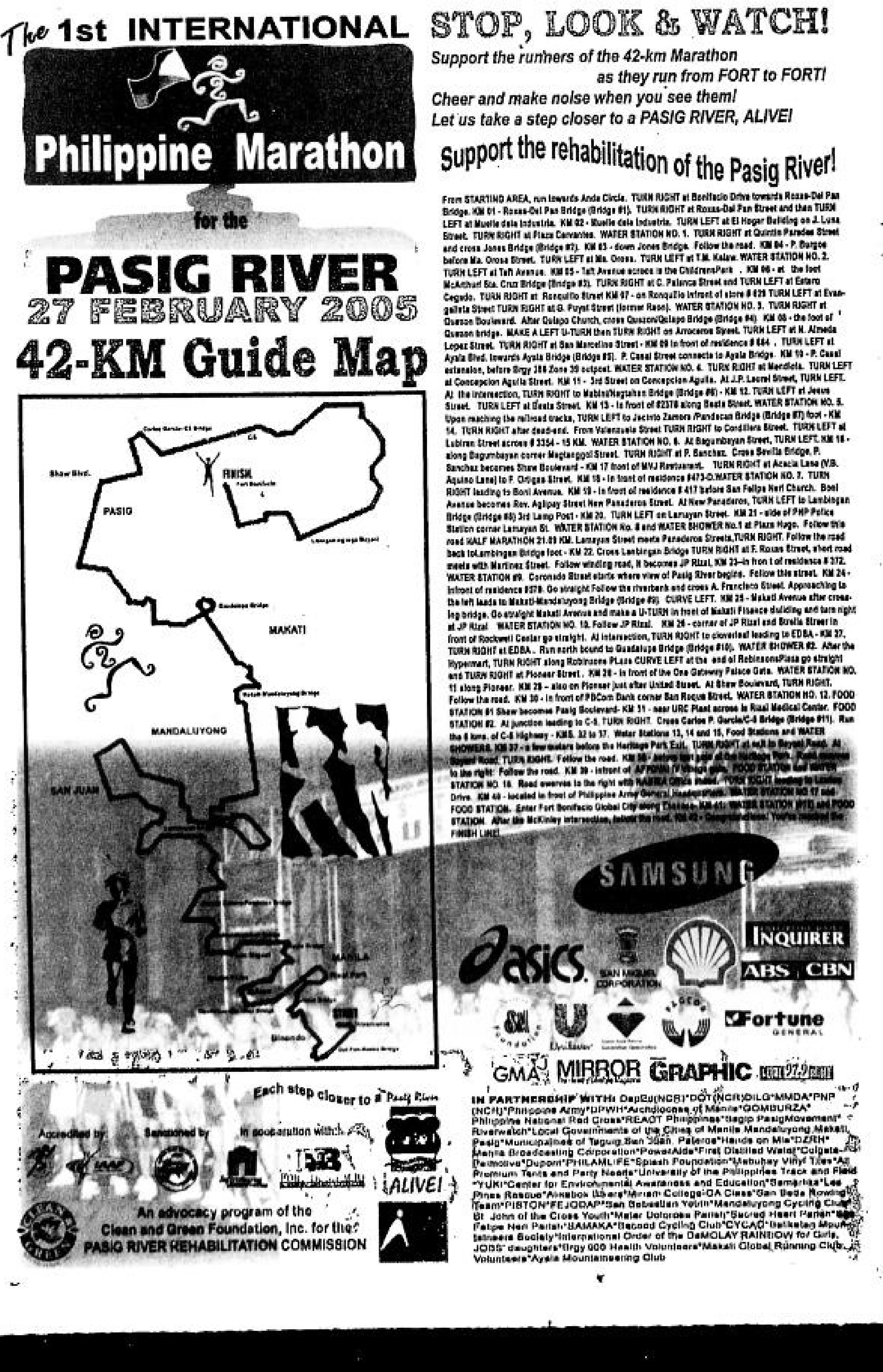
"We don't see any reasons why this should be discontinued," he said.

Human rights groups

In Pagadian City, various human rights groups urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to order a ceasefire in Sulu and open avenues for peace negotiations with the MNLF, particularly the so-called Misuari Breakaway Group."

The group, led by the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines and Anak Mindanao, also urged government authorities "to look into the truth behind the so-called "Karawan Massacre" and other alleged human rights violations which have led to this current war in Sulu."

They were referring to the alleged killing of some civilians by soldiers. *With reports from Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Alcuin Papa and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila*



The 1st INTERNATIONAL Philippine Marathon for the PASIG RIVER 27 FEBRUARY 2005 42-KM Guide Map

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From STARTING AREA, run towards Anda Circle. TURN RIGHT at Bonifacio Drive towards Roxas-Del Pan Bridge. KM 01 - Roxas-Del Pan Bridge (Bridge #1). TURN RIGHT at Roxas-Del Pan Street and then TURN LEFT at Muelle dela Industria. KM 02 - Muelle dela Industria. TURN LEFT at El Hogar Building on J. Luna Street. TURN RIGHT at Plaza Cervantes. WATER STATION NO. 1. TURN RIGHT at Quintin Paredes Street and cross Jones Bridge (Bridge #2). KM 03 - down Jones Bridge. Follow the road. KM 04 - P. Burgos before Ma. Orosa Street. TURN LEFT at Ma. Orosa. TURN LEFT at T.M. Kalaw. WATER STATION NO. 2. TURN LEFT at Taft Avenue. KM 05 - Taft Avenue across the ChildrensPark . KM 06 - at the foot McArthur Sta. Cruz Bridge (Bridge #3). TURN RIGHT at C. Palanca Street and TURN LEFT at Estero Cegado. TURN RIGHT at Ronquillo Street KM 07 - on Ronquillo infront of store # 620 TURN LEFT at Evangelista Street TURN RIGHT at G. Puyat Street (former Raon). WATER STATION NO. 3. TURN RIGHT at Quezon Boulevard. After Quiapo Church, cross Quezon/Quiapo Bridge (Bridge #4). KM 08 - the foot of Quezon bridge. MAKE A LEFT U-TURN then TURN RIGHT on Arroceros Street. TURN LEFT at N. Almeda Lopez Street. TURN RIGHT at San Marcelino Street - KM 09 in front of residence # 664 . TURN LEFT at Ayala Blvd. towards Ayala Bridge (Bridge #5). P. Casal Street connects to Ayala Bridge. KM 10 - P. Casal extension, before Brgy 288 Zone 39 outpost. WATER STATION NO. 4. TURN RIGHT at Mendiola. TURN LEFT at Concepcion Aguila Street. KM 11 - 3rd Street on Concepcion Aguila. At J.P. Laurel Street, TURN LEFT. At the intersection, TURN RIGHT to Mabini/Nagtahan Bridge (Bridge #6) - KM 12. TURN LEFT at Jesus Street. TURN LEFT at Beata Street. KM 13 - in front of #2378 along Beata Street. WATER STATION NO. 5. Upon reaching the railroad tracks, TURN LEFT to Jacinto Zamora /Pandacan Bridge (Bridge #7) foot - KM 14. TURN RIGHT after dead-end. From Valenzuela Street TURN RIGHT to Cordillera Street. TURN LEFT at Lubiran Street across # 3354 - 15 KM. WATER STATION NO. 6. At Bagumbayan Street, TURN LEFT. KM 16 - along Bagumbayan corner Magtanggol Street. TURN RIGHT at P. Sanchez. Cross Sevilla Bridge. P. Sanchez becomes Shaw Boulevard - KM 17 front of MVJ Restaurant. TURN RIGHT at Acacia Lane (V.B. Aquino Lane) to F. Ortigas Street. KM 18 - in front of residence #473-D.WATER STATION NO. 7. TURN RIGHT leading to Boni Avenue. KM 19 - in front of residence # 417 before San Felipe Neri Church. Boni Avenue becomes Rev. Aglipay Street New Panaderos Street. At New Panaderos, TURN LEFT to Lambingan Bridge (Bridge #8) 3rd Lamp Post - KM 20. TURN LEFT on Lamayan Street. KM 21 - side of PNP Police Station corner Lamayan St. WATER STATION No. 8 and WATER SHOWER No.1 at Plaza Hugo. Follow this road HALF MARATHON 21.09 KM. Lamayan Street meets Panaderos Streets,TURN RIGHT. Follow the road back toLambingan Bridge foot - KM 22. Cross Lambingan Bridge TURN RIGHT at F. Roxas Street, short road meets with Martinez Street. Follow winding road, it becomes JP Rizal, KM 23--in fron t of residence # 372. WATER STATION #9. Coronado Street starts where view of Pasig River begins. Follow this street. KM 24 - infront of residence #578. Go straight Follow the riverbank and cross A. Francisco Street. Approaching to the left leads to Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge (Bridge #9) CURVE LEFT. KM 25 - Makati Avenue after crossing bridge. Go straight Makati Avenue and make a U-TURN in front of Makati Finance Building and turn right at JP Rizal. WATER STATION NO. 10. Follow JP Rizal. KM 26 - corner of JP Rizal and Estrella Street in front of Rockwell Center go straight. At intersection, TURN RIGHT to cloverleaf leading to EDSA - KM 27. TURN RIGHT at EDSA . Run north bound to Guadalupe Bridge (Bridge #10). WATER SHOWER #2. After the Hypermart, TURN RIGHT along Robinsons PLace CURVE LEFT at the end of RobinsonsPlace go straight and TURN RIGHT at Pioneer Street . KM 28 - in front of the One Gateway Palace Gate. WATER STATION NO. 11 along Pioneer. KM 29 -- also on Pioneer just after United Street. At Shaw Boulevard, TURN RIGHT. Follow the road. KM 30 - in front of PSCom Bank corner San Roque Street. WATER STATION NO. 12. FOOD STATION #1 Shaw becomes Pasig Boulevard- KM 31 - near URC Plant across to Rizal Medical Center. FOOD STATION #2. At junction leading to C-5, TURN RIGHT. Cross Carlos P. Garcia/C-5 Bridge (Bridge #11). Run the 6 kms. of C-5 Highway - KMS. 32 to 37. Water Stations 13, 14 and 15, Food Stations and WATER SHOWERS. KM 37 - a few meters before the Heritage Park Exit. TURN RIGHT at exit to Bayani Road. At Bayani Road, TURN RIGHT. Follow the road. KM 38 - before last gate of the Heritage Park. Road swerves to the right Follow the road. KM 39 - infront of [illegible] village gate. FOOD STATION and WATER STATION NO. 16. Road swerves to the right with [illegible] Office ahead. TURN RIGHT leading to [illegible] Drive. KM 40 - located in front of Philippine Army General Headquarters. WATER STATION NO 17 and FOOD STATION. Enter Fort Bonifacio Global City along [illegible] KM 41: WATER STATION #18 and FOOD STATION. After the McKinley intersection, follow the road. KM 42 - Congratulations! You've reached the FINISH LINE!

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 26, 2005
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Mic 7:14-15,18-20
Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Tax collectors and sinners were seeking the company of Jesus, all of them eager to hear what he had to say. But the Pharisees and the Scribes frowned at this, muttering, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable:

Jesus continued, "There was a man with two sons. The younger said to his father: 'Give me my share of the estate.' So the father divided his property between them.

"Some days later, the younger son gathered all his belongings and started off for a distant land where he squandered his wealth in loose living. Having spent everything, he was hard pressed when a severe famine broke out in that land. So he hired himself out to a well-to-do citizen of that place and was sent to work on a pig farm. So famished was he that he longed to fill his stomach even with the food given to the pigs, but no one offered him anything.

"Finally coming to his senses, he said: 'How many of my father's hired workers have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will get up and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Treat me then as one of your hired servants.' With that thought in mind he set off for his father's house.

"He was still a long way off when his father caught sight of him. His father was so deeply moved with compassion that he ran out to meet him, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. The son said: 'Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son...'

"But the father turned to his servants: 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and kill it. We shall celebrate and have a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and is found.' And the celebration began.

"Meanwhile, the elder son had been working in the fields. As he returned and was near the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what it was all about. The servant answered: 'Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father is so happy about it that he has ordered this celebration and killed the fattened calf.'

"The elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and pleaded with him. The indignant son said: 'Look, I have slaved for you all these years. Never have I disobeyed your orders. Yet you have never given me even a young goat to celebrate with my friends. Then when this son of yours returns after squandering your property with loose women, you kill the fattened calf for him.'

"The father said: 'My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But this brother of yours was dead, and has come back to life. He was lost and is found. And for that we had to rejoice and be glad.'"

Commentary

Who is like our God who rejoices in the mercy of forgiveness? O God, show us your mercy again, trample on our wrongs and cast our sins into the depths of the sea. We cry out to God along with the prophet Micah. And Jesus eats with sinners, calling those who think they do not need to ask for forgiveness to come and listen to his Word and to sit at table with the other sinners. It is the story of two terrible sons, neither knowing the love of their Father, rejecting him outright or pretending to obey until he gets his inheritance. The younger who was brash and public about his sin comes back, not terribly repentant but is welcomed and brought in again, but the older son refuses, blind even to his own sin that dismisses his father's love and hates his brother. Both do awful wrong to the father and to one another and in witness to the town. We are all sinners. It is time to call once again on God's goodness. Father, show us your mercy again, trample our wrongs and make us forgiving to one another, imitating your love for us. Amen.

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Cops find explosives in Taguig billiard hall

From page A1

off by a concerned citizen who noticed the backpack and became suspicious that nobody seemed to be claiming it.

Billiard hall owner

The billiard shop was owned by a certain Joseph Diala who denied any knowledge of the explosives but subsequently disappeared, Reyes said.

"We are checking if this is connected to the Valentine's Day attack, which has been claimed by the Abu Sayyaf extremist group," said Director Avelino Razon Jr., the National Capital Region police chief.

"We are also checking if this belonged to another threat group," Razon told a press conference at Camp Crame.

Simultaneous bombings

Twelve people were killed and over a hundred others injured in simultaneous bombings in Manila and the Mindanao cities of General Santos and Davao on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. At least four people have been arrested in connection with the attacks.

Reyes said Diala would be considered a suspect if he refused to cooperate with the investigation. He said a team of investigators was hunting for Diala and checking on his background.

Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay said the explosives, when assembled into a bomb, would have been powerful enough to bring down two five-story buildings.

"If this had not been discovered, it would have caused a big damage on the lives and property of innocent people," Aglipay told reporters.

Bombers scared?

The PNP chief said he believed that the Taguig cache was connected to other terrorist attacks.

"Whenever we arrest big-time terrorists, those left in their group get scared. So they either bring out their bombs or we get them before they could do any harm," he said.

The Taguig explosives were found a day after the PNP presented to the media four suspects in a foiled plot to bomb the US Embassy and other targets in Metro Manila—three alleged members of the Jemaah Islamiyah Southeast Asian terror group and their local Abu Sayyaf contact.

Indonesians Mohammed Nasir Hamid and Mohammed Yusop Karim Faiz and Malaysian Ted Yolanda allegedly arrived in Zamboanga City on Dec. 16 to plan the bomb attacks in Metro Manila and Mindanao last Christmas, and deliver $7,000 to be used in the operation.

Targets

Filipino Muhajir de la Merced, an Abu Sayyaf member, was to serve as their guide, police said.

Earlier this week, the military announced the arrest of two Filipinos over a plot to attack US troops taking part in joint military exercises in the Philippines, as well as shopping malls and other targets in Metro Manila and Mindanao.

Gamal "Tapay" Baharan and Angelo Trinidad were allegedly part of the Abu Sayyaf team behind the bus bombing that killed four people in Makati on Feb. 14.

Aglipay yesterday ordered Razon to strengthen coordination with the local community in Taguig as part of the government's drive against terrorism.

Continuous dialogue

"There has to be continuous dialogue with barangay folks. There should also be cooperation in which police could visit houses with the permission of owners," he said.

Western Bicutan, where the explosives were found, and Maharlika Village, a largely Muslim community, are neighboring barangays in Taguig.

Reyes said Maharlika Village leaders and police had agreed to coordinate in maintaining peace and order.

"We had a dialogue and the leaders promised to help the police in monitoring illegal activities in their area," Reyes said.

Biscuits
Biscuits

FOUND: 2 kilos of TNT and 10 to 15 kilos of gunpowder with 90 pieces of blasting caps at a billiard hall in Taguig Thursday night. PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay surmises that the explosive cache could have been left behind by jittery bombers following the arrests of suspects behind the Valentine Day blast. Taguig City police chief Supt. Ramon Reyes inspects the merchandise.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Dinky's warning: Too much TV . . .

From page A1

syllables.

He could be watching too much TV, said Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman as she reminded parents and teachers that marathon televiewing could stunt a child's creativity and social skills.

"*Nakakabobo talaga* (It really makes one dumb)," she said, citing various studies which showed that TV viewers experience less mental stimulation, as measured by alpha brain-wave production, during viewing than during reading.

Telltale signs

That's why, she said, the Department of Social Welfare and Development would be campaigning among daycare centers—and households—nationwide not to leave youngsters too long in front of the so-called idiot box.

"Overexposure (to TV) tends to deaden rather than stimulate children's creativity," the DSWD chief told reporters in a press conference.

Asked how parents could tell if they were raising a TV addict, Soliman gave a few simple pointers: "The child tends to be catatonic, their eyes look past you when you talk to them.

"He can't get past monosyllabic replies. He's anti-social and keeps to himself," she said. "One of the worst signs is when he's watching TV even while eating his meal."

These negative effects are true even when the child is a fanatic of educational programs, she said. It's not a question of the show's quality but the "long hours" spent watching it, she explained.

Soliman gave this advice in the course of reporting updates on the DSWD's Early Childhood Development Project, which was launched in 2000 and now covers 13 provinces nationwide.

Under the ECDP, government-run daycare centers catering to the poor were equipped to provide the learning experiences and child-rearing approaches similar to those offered in private, expensive Montessori schools, she said.

2 to 3 hours only

For example, these centers limited their wards' TV viewing hours to between two and three hours a day. And most of the time, the children watched educational videos, not regular programs.

The kids' "unstructured" schedule was richer in terms of reading or storytelling sessions, and group activities like games, singing, art lessons and poem recitation.

Compared to kids whose virtual *yaya* (nanny) had been the TV set, Soliman noted, children in daycare wards covered by the program were reported to be more "*bibo* (lively), alert and sociable" and could engage grown-ups in conversation.

The program has already benefited an estimated three million children aged 6 years old and below, mainly in the poorest communities in Regions VI, VII and XII.

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'Our dreams shall never die'

By Gregorio Honasan

EVEN as we bravely, albeit desperately, struggle against the daunting challenges currently ranged against us as a people, we fondly and proudly commemorate those historic and fateful days of February 1986 when we chose to exercise our God-given right to self-determination and, mercifully, succeeded.

The Filipino stood tall and the entire world applauded. Implicit then was our collective prayer and aspiration that after all our sufferings, the choicest blessings be generously showered upon the Filipino nation.

Sadly, after an entire generation of nearly 30 million more Filipinos, we seemingly have walked around in circles.

Good governance remains a fantasy, seemingly unachievable in the years to come. Corruption is manifest and pervasive in the bureaucracy, even at the highest levels.

Regretfully, our principal export is our own human resources. Unemployment and poverty levels have supposedly improved mainly through a redefinition of terms favorable to what the current administration would like to portray.

We still have to contend with very real and serious threats to national security and public safety. We have our regular doses of various types of crises—fiscal, power, economic, natural disasters, and even leadership. It is with much shame but we have to admit that the negative features of our society 20 years ago are unfailingly present to this day.

However, we cannot gain anything if we just despair and indulge in self-pity. After all, silence and inaction in the face of evil are morally, if not legally, culpable behavior. Moreover, further analyses and debates would only [result in] the same problems and prescriptions that we already know.

Just as we did in February 1986, we must again draw upon our inner strength as a people, vigorously seek the truth, collectively decide and thereafter gradually but irreversibly act on what is best for this generation of Filipinos, as well as those that are to come.

The Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), along with its affiliated organizations, declares and reaffirms its solidarity with the Filipino people in seeking the full realization of their just and noble aspirations that have been denied them all these years.

We commit ourselves to help bring about the fundamental changes that drove us to spark the 1987 Revolution.

Our dreams shall never die.

Remembering songs, psalms ...

From page A1

late former Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel, and Coritha, a minstrel of people's songs.

Making a difference

And because Edsa was really about ordinary Filipinos who made a difference, Darwin Calvario, a tricycle driver from General Santos City, was honored for his exemplary honesty with a plaque, cash and a custom-made driver's license stating that the bearer is an "honest driver."

Calvario had found an envelope containing cash and several checks in his tricycle. Instead of keeping the money, he went to a radio station to announce his find and call on the owner to come forward.

It was one act that spelled a difference, just like the time when Filipinos gathered at Edsa, not caring whether they lived or died.

A miracle

Of course, Perlita Picar of Taytay, Rizal, who has religiously observed the anniversary of Edsa I since the day she went home 19 years ago jubilant that democracy had been restored, was among yesterday's crowd.

"It was a miracle, indeed a miracle," said Picar, an insurance agent who spent years of her life struggling to survive the "repressive" times.

"We never thought that something might happen to us because we blocked off [military] tanks. Those four days were just days of continuous prayer," related Picar, an activist during her days as a commerce student at the Far Eastern University.

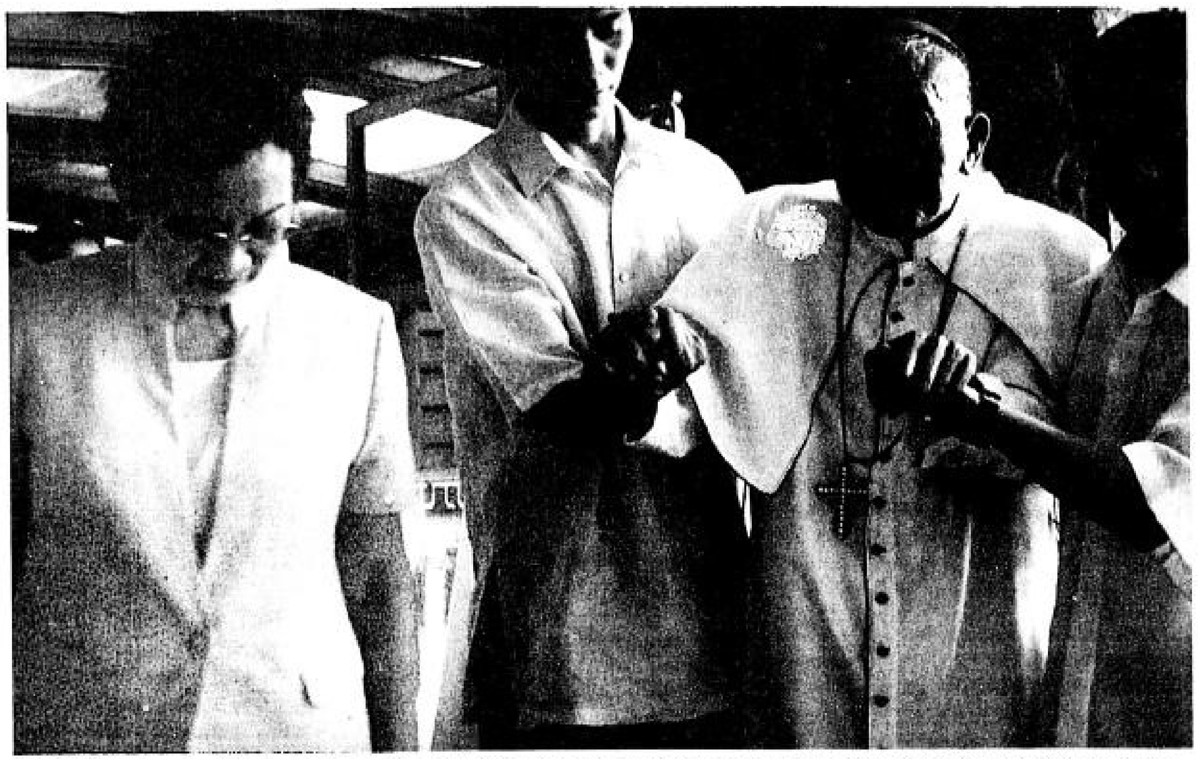
Enduring metal braces in her back to ease the pain of a lower back injury, Picar wanted to wear a plain yellow shirt to yesterday's noon Mass at the Edsa Shrine.

But it would not fit, so she wore a loose polka-dotted violet shirt. But she brought along the yellow shirt in her bag just the same.

"We would go home only to change our clothes and eat breakfast. Then we would come back and stay here. We would sleep there at the People Power Monument," said Picar, recounting the four days she spent with her cousins, nieces and nephews at Edsa.

She had chosen to not get married and bear children, as martial law still prevailed and she felt it would be hard to raise a family under that regime.

Faithful to a fight she had won with millions of others, Picar said she still browsed through books documenting Edsa I, just to reminisce.


THE MAN who called for People Power, Jaime Cardinal Sin, now frail and retired, once more partners with Cory Aquino to mark their triumph 19 years ago. He makes it to the Edsa Shrine but did not stay for the noonday Mass. MITCH MAURICIO

"When it was over, I was so happy because the dictator was no longer in power, and there was democracy again. Because of the restoration, people can now complain about the wrong things that they see," she said.

Almost two decades later, Picar holds on to the dream of "a better nation."

"We Filipinos, we seem to be too impatient, we have to quickly get what we want," she said. "But we must realize that life's really like that. Everywhere, good exists with evil."

On full alert

Still on alert following the Valentine's Day bomb attacks in the cities of Makati, Davao and General Santos, police guarded the Edsa Shrine all day yesterday.

"The entire [Eastern Police District] is on full alert, as we have been every day, and all of our 1,500 policemen are on heightened alert," said Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela, EPD director.

The EPD surrounded the vicinity of the shrine at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue throughout the day, apparently expecting both the best and the worst.

"In planning [for security] we expect anything. We are prepared for any eventuality. There is police presence especially where the police are needed," Valenzuela said yesterday afternoon.

But he was careful not to give away details of the police deployment nearest the shrine, merely saying that an "adequate" number of men were present to secure the area and the personalities who arrived for the noon Mass.

Officers from the EPD's civil disturbance management unit were detailed nearest the Our Lady of Peace Parish, the church inside the shrine.

Exit points through Edsa and Ortigas Avenues were also well secured, while EPD men continuously conducted mobile checkpoints in secondary roads all over the areas covered by the police district—the cities of Mandaluyong, Pasig and Marikina, and the municipality of San Juan.

"There are no mass actions, no protesters in the area. It's like the regular Mass, only now it's a special day. The crowd is like [the turnout] every Sunday evening," said Valenzuela.

If not for Sin

But save for the volume of the turnout, the Mass at the Our Lady of Peace Parish seemed far from regular.

Among those present were former President Aquino, her son Tarlac Rep. Noynoy Aquino, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and former Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

Although in frail health, Jaime Cardinal Sin, the former archbishop of Manila, made a brief appearance at the church.

"We all know that if it were not for Cardinal Sin, there would not have been an Edsa I," Ms Aquino said in a short message to some 500 churchgoers, a few of them standing near the church's exits.

It was a reminder of Sin's pivotal role in Edsa I, having called on the people to shield the rebel forces on Edsa from the strongman's troops.

The cardinal did not stay for the Mass that ended at around 1:30 p.m.

Spirit of Edsa I

Ms Aquino reminded the churchgoers of the spirit of Edsa I, and enjoined them to do something for the country.

"Unless we learn to help the people, this will not be a great country," she said, delivering her message in Filipino.

"You may have read Time magazine—it said that we are among the happiest in the world and that even while we experience hardships, we are still happy. We will be even happier if we help each other, if we think that because we are Filipinos, we should give something to our country," the former President said.

Cory: No one can take Edsa away from us

From page A1

again after the noon Mass at the Edsa Shrine.

But in Bacolod City, Bishop Vicente Navarra said it was "a pity" that the message of Edsa I—a change for the better—had been lost among Filipinos, especially in Negros Occidental.

"It should have been an occasion for us to be converted, to show our change of minds, hearts and way of living," he said.

'GMA, stop politicking'

The bishop also had a message for President Macapagal-Arroyo: "Please stop politicking and try to be sensitive to the cry of the people whoever they are. Listen, because our conscience will always tell us what is the best thing to do."

Navarra said it was sad that years after Edsa I, Filipinos had generally remained materialistic and selfish, and poverty had worsened.

"But I don't lose hope. Another new day dawning in our lives is always an opportunity for us to recover and stand up and show that we can, as a people, change," he said, adding:

"The message to our politicians, our Church people and all of us who claim to be Filipinos is: We have to forget ourselves and think of the good of the majority."

Amazing feat

In her speech after unveiling the bronze statue of her murdered husband, ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., Ms Aquino said: "We accomplished an amazing feat on Edsa in February 1986 ... No one can take that away from us.

"That was a glorious day, not only for the Philippines but for the world. By showing the world that change need not be effected at the cost of violence, we encouraged other oppressed peoples to rise in peaceful protests to oust other entrenched dictatorial and oppressive regimes."

To debunk the criticism that people power had not contributed to national development, Ms Aquino cited the party-list system as a manifestation of people power in the legislative body.

She said the cooperatives organized to help farmers, wage earners and even housewives attain a measure of economic independence was another proof of how people power could be harnessed to help the basic sectors.

She also cited the community development efforts initiated by Gawad Kalinga through Couples for Christ, which are aimed at helping the poor build "integrated, holistic and sustainable communities."

Ms Aquino said that in the uprisings at Edsa in 1986 and in January 2001, Filipinos showed their best as a people—"united, vigilant, selfless, caring, nationalistic and committed to the defense of democracy."

"But our work did not end there," she said, and urged the public to help rebuild the nation and to use people power to serve the nation "every day of our lives."

Not fault of Edsa

Former President Fidel Ramos—who broke away from Marcos to support Ms Aquino in 1986—also chided those complaining that the civilian-backed military uprising did not bring good to the nation.

"That is not the fault of Edsa. That is the fault of the leaders and the people," Ramos told reporters just before the start of the early morning ceremony at the People Power Monument.

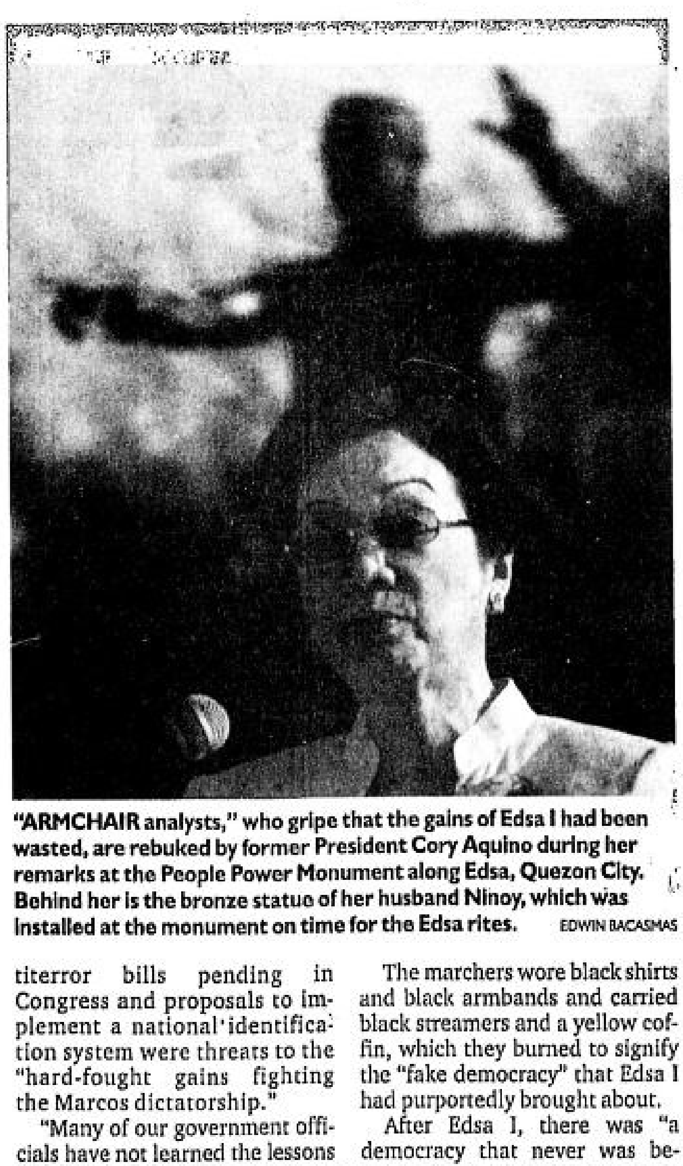
Ramos was dressed in a blue shirt and denim pants, similar to what he wore when he emerged from Camp Crame on Feb. 24, 1986, to joyously announce that Marcos had fled Malacañang.

It turned out to be a false alarm. Marcos would not abandon the Palace until after he had taken an oath as president at noon of Feb. 25.

But that night, the Marcoses left Malacañang, which they had occupied since 1965.

Lessons not learned

In Iloilo City, activist leader Aurelio Bosque said the antiterror bills pending in Congress and proposals to implement a national identification system were threats to the "hard-fought gains fighting the Marcos dictatorship."


"ARMCHAIR analysts," who gripe that the gains of Edsa I had been wasted, are rebuked by former President Cory Aquino during her remarks at the People Power Monument along Edsa, Quezon City. Behind her is the bronze statue of her husband Ninoy, which was installed at the monument on time for the Edsa rites. EDWIN BACASMAS

"Many of our government officials have not learned the lessons of history," said Bosque, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Panay.

About 500 people, mostly workers and residents of urban poor communities, assembled at the Museo Iloilo where a demonstration was later held to mark the anniversary of Edsa I.

In Bacolod, about 50 members of Sanlakas-Negros Occidental held a funeral march on Araneta Street "to mourn the death of the democracy and social justice supposedly gained at Edsa."

The marchers wore black shirts and black armbands and carried black streamers and a yellow coffin, which they burned to signify the "fake democracy" that Edsa I had purportedly brought about.

After Edsa I, there was "a democracy that never was because of the worsening economic and social plight of the Filipino people," Sanlakas-Negros said in a statement.

In Cebu City, about 200 members of Bayan held a rally in front of Malacañang sa Sugbo. They threw tomatoes at an effigy of President Arroyo.

Some 200 members of the newly formed group VAT Oppositors in Cebu (or Vatoc) attended a Mass at the Santo Rosario Parish before marching toward Fuente Osmeña Rotunda.

Vatoc expressed opposition to the proposed increase of the value-added tax rate, which it said was contrary to what Edsa I stood for.

No real reforms

In Manila, Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said commemorating the event that ousted Marcos was getting to be tiresome because Filipinos continued to miss out on the promise of people power.

"The people have lost interest in commemorative activities because they have yet to see real reforms," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

He added: "It's not enough that the nation collectively goes down memory lane. People want to see changes because that is the true spirit of Edsa."

Members of militant groups like Bayan were among those who took to the streets even while Marcos was still well in control of Malacañang and the whole country.

"The current regime is trying to harness people power in the fight against corruption. The basic problem is that the administration is itself perceived to be corrupt," Reyes said.

"It is just like turning the dictator Marcos into a human rights advocate. It just won't wash.

"While we commend the people who still go out and remember Edsa I, we are afraid that its luster diminishes as people get frustrated with the absence of change. None of the regimes after Edsa 1986 provided genuine and thorough-going social transformation."

To die for

In a statement, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas criticized the President for supposedly trying to turn the Philippines into a police state after Edsa.

"After pushing for the national ID system and the antiterror bill, the regime is now pushing for the Bush doctrine of preemptive strikes against so-called terrorists, like what the United States did to Iraq. It is the policy of shoot first, ask questions later, as can be attested to by the Iraqi people," said KMP spokesperson Willy Marbella.

In an interview with ANC, Senate President Franklin Drilon said Filipinos should realize that the liberties they now enjoyed were something that other countries "to this day will die to have."

"What is there to brag about is that I'm talking to you here with all the liberties, like freedom of speech, which is important," Drilon said.

He said Filipinos should not take these liberties for granted.

Drilon also said that the Philippines was "a difficult nation to govern" but that Filipinos should not give up trying to achieve unity.

Collective failure

But in a privilege speech at the House early this week, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said Edsa I had been wasted by the administrations that followed.

Butz Aquino, brother of the slain Ninoy Aquino, was the leader of the August Twenty-One Movement (Atom) that helped mobilize people power during Edsa I.

"Sadly, the 19 years that followed [Edsa I] speak of our collective failure to live up to the spirit and promise of that blessed event," he said, adding:

"For our hard-earned bond of common purpose proved short-lived, unraveling quicker than the time it takes to untie a yellow ribbon. Our habitual divisiveness all too soon came back with a vengeance, along with monkey business as usual. All this at the expense of the tremendous gains we had so courageously fought for.

Credible leader needed

"What is needed is credible leadership, a leadership that is accountable ... that leads by example. Leadership whose words ring true, whose acts are transparent and whose aims never deviate from the primacy of promoting the common good." *Fe Zamora, Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suicide blast kills 10 Iraqi police; Ukraine to pull out all troops

BAGHDAD—A suicide bomber disguised as a policeman killed at least 10 people when he blew his car up at an Iraqi police headquarters, as Ukraine said it would pull out its 1,650 troops from the war-torn country.

Violence around the country killed at least 23 people Thursday, including two US soldiers, but the deadliest attack occurred when the bomber managed to drive his explosives-rigged car into the main police compound in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit as police gathered for their morning parade.

The director of Tikrit hospital, Emad Juburi, said they had received 10 dead and 35 wounded, all policemen.

"The suicide bomber managed to get into the headquarters' courtyard because he was wearing a police lieutenant's uniform. He detonated his vehicle in the middle of police who had gathered for the morning parade," Juburi said, citing the accounts of survivors.

In a potential blow to the US-led coalition in Iraq, the sixth-largest foreign military contingent in the country, Ukraine, said it would pull all of its 1,650 troops out of the country by the end of the year.

"I believe that our troops will be withdrawn this year," Interfax news agency quoted Defense Minister Anatoly Hrytsenko as saying.

New pro-Western President Viktor Yushchenko promised during his election campaign late last year to pull Ukrainian troops out of Iraq, where 18 of their number have been killed.

A Ukrainian withdrawal is sure to displease Washington, with Poland already having decided to pull out a third of its 2,400 soldiers because of strong domestic opposition to their deployment.

The United States, which backed Yushchenko during the "orange revolution" standoff with Leonid Kuchma's regime that eventually brought him to power, has said any withdrawal should be made gradually and in a coordinated way.

Kuchma opposed the US-led war in Iraq but later agreed to deploy troops there in what observers said was an attempt to mend fences with Washington, which accused him of approving a sale of military equipment to Saddam's regime despite an international embargo.

In Germany, a court martial which convicted three British soldiers of abusing Iraqi civilians near the main southern city of Basra was due to deliver sentences on Friday.

The soldiers face jail terms of up to two years after being found guilty of abusing suspected looters in May 2003. *AFP*

FREEDOM FIGHTERS Two Kenyan "Mau Mau" freedom fighters are pictured in Kiambu in this file photo wearing animal skins and armed with long knives—weapons and clothing favored by the fighters who staged a bitter rebellion against British rule in the 1950s. Historians say colonial Britain used mass detention without trial, torture and rigged justice to a far greater extent than previously believed to suppress the rebellion. REUTERS

Bush says Russia 'backsliding' but Putin stands firm in summit

BRATISLAVA—Russian President Vladimir Putin gave little ground Thursday to his US counterpart George W. Bush's concerns that Moscow is backsliding on democratic values like checks and balances and the rule of law.

During a joint press conference after a summit in a castle overlooking the Danube river in the Slovakian capital Bratislava, Putin said there could be "no return" to Soviet-style government but that Moscow would develop democracy at its own pace and in its own image.

"We are not going to make up, to invent any kind of special Russian democracy. We're going to remain committed to the fundamental principles of democracy that have been established in the world," Putin said.

"But, of course, all the modern institutions of democracy, the principles of democracy, should be adequate to the current status of the development of Russia, to our history and our traditions," he said through an interpreter.

"Democracies always reflect a country's culture and customs and I know that," said Bush. "But they have certain things in common: they have rule of law, and protection of minorities, a free press and a viable political opposition."

"I was able to share my concerns about Russia's commitment in fulfilling these universal principles," said the US president, who has been increasingly vocal in criticizing Putin on the issue.

The Russian president jabbed back, declaring that debating "whether we have more or whether we have less democracy is not the right thing to do" and dismissing some of Bush's ideas as things "I will not comment on."

The two leaders, whose once warm relationship chilled when they broke over the war in Iraq, seemed closer on a range of international issues, agreeing that Iran and North Korea must not obtain nuclear weapons.

"It is important to neutralize the attempts to proliferate weapons of mass destruction," said Putin, who has rejected Washington's charges that Tehran seeks nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian atomic program.

But a senior US administration official, briefing reporters on condition he not be named, acknowledged that the summit had yielded no breakthroughs on Iran, or on Russian weapons sales to Syria, which Washington wants halted.

The official said Bush and Putin met alone with only interpreters in a separate room for over one hour of the two-and-a-half hour meeting.

Bush indicated that his personal assessment of Putin had not suffered from their break over Iraq or a series of steps seen as autocratic, including moves against the oil giant Yukos, a clampdown on the media, and centralizing political power in the Kremlin.

"I can tell you what it's like dealing with the man over the last four years. When he tells you something, he means it. He asked what some of my concerns were, and he explained answers," said the US president.

The White House released a series of joint statements recommitting both countries to cooperating on energy, fighting nuclear weapons proliferation, curbing the spread of shoulder-launched rockets, and helping Russia join the World Trade Organization.

But these mostly focused on existing initiatives, and seemed designed to reinforce the idea that Washington and Moscow are still working together on important issues.

Washington and Moscow also agreed to keep working on enhancing security at Russian nuclear sites—days after a US intelligence report said theft of radioactive materials from such facilities "has occurred."

Ahead of their talks, Bush gave his strongest endorsement yet of European efforts to convince Iran not to develop nuclear weapons and said he hoped for a "diplomatic solution" to the dispute.

"We're more likely to do so when we're all on the same page," said Bush, who in the past has stressed that he cannot rule out using force against Tehran.

Just hours before seeing Putin, Bush seemed to tweak the Russian leader by predicting that former Soviet republics Moldova and Belarus would embrace democracy and by praising Nato's expansion to Russia's doorstep.

"Eventually, the call of liberty comes to every mind and every soul. And one day, freedom's promise will reach every people and every nation," Bush said in a speech to thousands of cheering Slovaks packed in a town square. *AFP*

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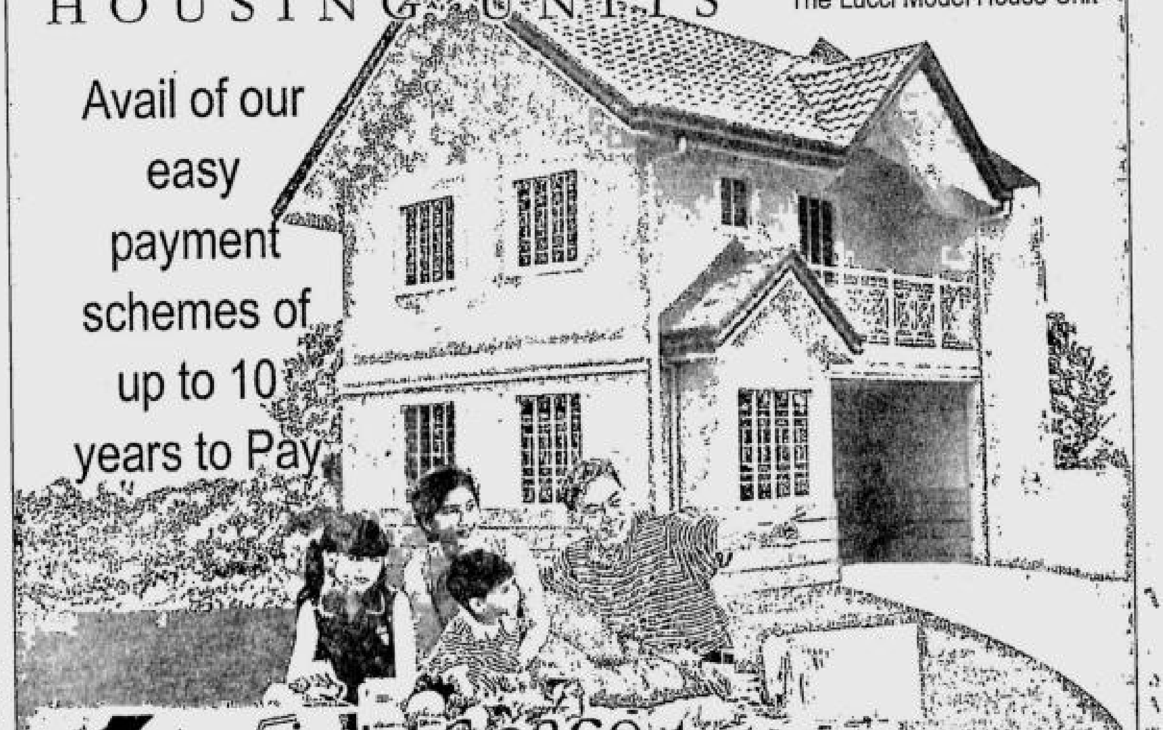

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Asian countries appeal for urgent bird flu help

HO CHI MINH CITY—Asian countries battling a bird flu virus which threatens to create a human pandemic that could kill millions need urgent help from the wealthy West if they are to succeed, a 28-nation conference said on Friday.

"The threat is real and the potential is very high" for a pandemic, Samuel Jutzi of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization told a news conference at the end of a three-day conference on bird flu in Ho Chi Minh City.

"The longer the virus continues to circulate in poultry production systems and ducks, the higher is the probability of infection of humans," he said.

"All 28 countries have said there is a need for external support," he said.

Vietnam is the only one to have appealed for help publicly and senior UN officials at the conference have complained about what one called "an alarming lack of commitment" from rich nations in the fight against the H5N1 virus.

The communist nation has been hardest hit by the virus which erupted across much of Asia at the end of 2003 and has killed 46 people—33 Vietnamese, 12 Thais and a Cambodian.

It now has another case, a 21-year-old man whose younger sister may also have caught the virus, officials said.

"Now we are disinfecting his home area. It is not clear how he was infected, but during Tet people everywhere ate chickens," said Dr. Pham Van Diu, referring to the Lunar New Year holiday this month when poultry is traditionally served.

Almost all the people known to have caught the virus got it from contact with sick birds. It has killed more than 70 percent of people infected.

But while Vietnam has borne the brunt, the H5N1 virus was now also endemic in Thailand, Indonesia and China, Jutzi said.

The experts no longer talk about eradicating the disease, but of containing it before it mutates into a form which can pass between humans and sets off a pandemic.

The conference agreed this meant the way Asia raises poultry—usually around the house and free to wander among other animals—would have to change, Jutzi said.

This was a key long-term issue—how to overhaul poultry farming so birds are raised away from other animals and in pens so they can't mix with wild birds or ducks believed to be natural carriers of the virus.

Implementing biosecurity measures—everything from building closed chicken sheds and erecting bird netting to chemical baths and vaccines—is hugely expensive in poor countries such as Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia.

Nevertheless, the FAO is adamant that no matter how big the task, money must be found and age-old farming practices reformed.

"If we want to control avian influenza there may be people who lose their livelihoods," said FAO animal health chief Joseph Domenech.

Donors would have to cough up $100 million in the short-term fight against the virus, a sum which could rise to $300 million, the conference said.

"That does not include subsidies, compensation and incentives for a long-term restructuring of the industry. Those funds are several hundreds of millions of dollars," Domenech said.

But he said it was up to affected countries to draw up specific aid requests after the meeting, attended by donors such as the United States, Britain, Australia and Japan.

It also agreed surveillance systems needed to be enhanced, regional networks strengthened and gaps in the knowledge about the virus filled, Jutzi said. *Reuters*

There's money out there, but world stingy—Oxfam

LONDON—A wealth of donations from across the globe that followed the tsunami disaster in Asia shows how "stingy" people really are in the face of the world's 15 other major crises, the charity Oxfam said Friday.

The international community has raised a mere four percent of a $3.2-billion (2.4-billion-euro) appeal launched by the United Nations last year to fund these forgotten emergencies, which are largely in Africa and affect 29 million people, it said.

In contrast, it managed to meet 97 percent of the funding costs requested for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami, which is believed to have killed more than 290,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and other countries, said Oxfam spokesperson Sam Barratt.

"The tsunami has shown that when the world wants to deal with a humanitarian crisis it can mobilize massive resources and save lives," Barbara Stocking, director of Oxfam Great Britain, said in a statement.

"So far the global response to the world's other emergencies has been stingy in comparison. The aid agenda should be set according to need and not according to media coverage," she said.

The comments came as wealthy countries wound up a two-day meeting in Switzerland to discuss aid spending plans for 2005.

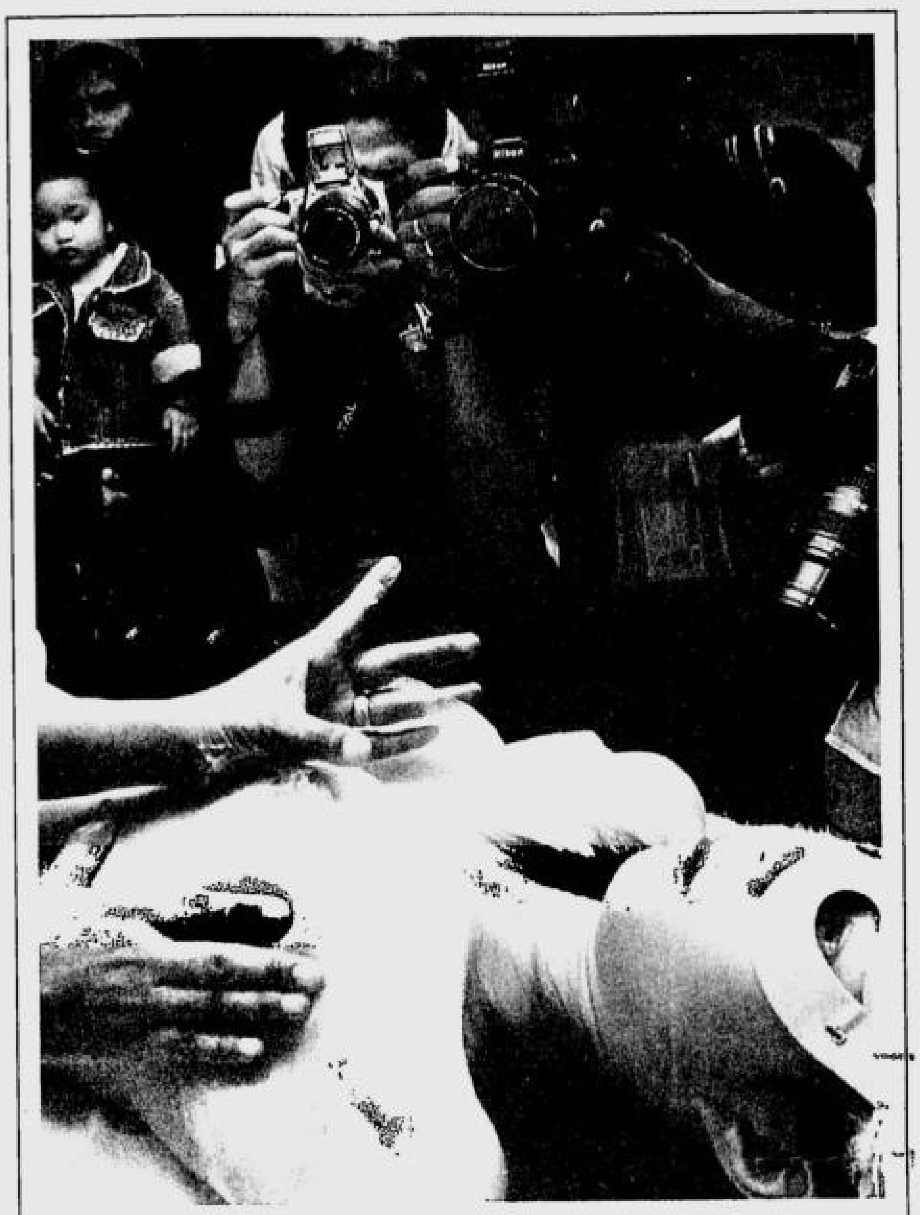
Underscoring the difference in donations to the Indian Ocean disaster that struck two months ago and ongoing emergencies elsewhere, Oxfam revealed that each individual affected by the tsunami had received $500 whereas each person touched by a war in Uganda had only been granted $0.50.

Oxfam had hoped that the donor community's attitude toward funding would change as a result of the staggering response to the tsunami, said Barret.

But, judging by the evidence to-date, "this year has been particularly slow and we are concerned that donors may be unable to meet their commitments to these emergencies," he said.

A mere 0.8 percent of some $158 million requested by the United Nations for Uganda has been pledged and just 0.4 percent of an appeal to save the lives of 1.2 million people in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo.

Even for Sudan, a country that is often in the headlines, the United Nations has only received five percent of a $1.5-billion appeal, Oxfam said. *AFP*



ANYTHING FOR MEN?
A Thai expert gives breast massage to a model at a demonstration of a new cream to increase the breast size immediately at a hotel in Bangkok, Feb. 24. A cream and a special bra that claim to enlarge women's breasts are under investigation by Thai health authorities after the cream's makers gave models a public breast massage to prove that it works. AFP

Japan-Philippines Exchange Program

Mr. Shigeru Akabane (center) and his parents Mr. Shoichi Akabane and Mrs. Setpzu Akabane arrive in Manila on February 26, 2005 to encourage deserving Filipino nurses and care-givers to participate in the Japan-Philippines Exchange Program.

Mr. Shigeru Akabane is an active NPO member, currently President of Chiba International Volunteer Association, Board Member of Red Cross Language Volunteer Network and the Customs and Security Manager of Narita International Airport. He believes that "the youth should involve themselves in knowledge and professional growth and not only monetary." He likewise admires the strong bond of the Filipino Family, its warmth and hospitality. This exchange program is supported by the Rotary Yoneyama Foundation. Mr. Akabane is an expert in the management of sleep disorders.

Australia exiles boy with 'bad' father

MELBOURNE, Australia—Australia's tough immigration laws were again put under the spotlight Friday when the government deported a schoolboy and long-time resident to Thailand because his father's bid for permanent residency had failed.

The government said it had no choice but to deport Nak Assavatheptavee, who has lived in Melbourne for eight of his 15 years, talks with a broad Australian accent and barely speaks his native tongue.

The decision has split Nak's family, with his sister and brother remaining in Australia as the schoolboy, his father and niece flew out of Melbourne late Friday afternoon.

The boy's plight has become a cause celebre in Melbourne, with Victoria state Premier Steve Bracks calling on the federal government to show compassion and his fellow students at Thornbury Darebin Secondary College holding fundraisers to help him appeal the situation. *AFP*

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February 16, 2005

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 07, s. 2005

TO : **ALL OVERSEAS WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

SUBJECT : Implementing Guidelines on Claim Applications and Reimbursements under the Overseas Workers Program (OWP) of PhilHealth

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 182 as amended, the Medicare Program for Overseas Workers formerly managed by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) shall now be administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Effective 01 March 2005, PhilHealth shall commence receiving and processing claim applications of overseas workers. All *pending* claims *(claims received and transferred to PhilHealth that were not paid prior to March 1, 2005 which includes claims that were previously returned to claimants for completion/reconsideration)* and those received at the close of business hours of February 28,2005 shall be processed and reimbursed by PhilHealth.

Therefore, all overseas workers concerned as well as accredited health care providers are now advised to file their claim applications with PhilHealth starting March 1, 2005 through its regional and service offices nationwide. For further information of the location of our regional offices and service offices, please refer to our website at www.philhealth.gov.ph or call telephone number 637-9999 local 1122 & 1124 for the address of a particular regional office. For the convenience of the overseas workers and their family members, PhilHealth shall maintain service desks in all OWWA offices that will receive claim applications. These will then be forwarded to the PhilHealth Head Office at Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City for processing and payment.

The prescribed claim forms to be used by overseas workers shall remain the same as provided for in PhilHealth Circulars 11 and 24 series of 2000. These are the **PhilHealth Claim Form 1** to be accomplished by the overseas worker-member, and **PhilHealth Claim Forms 2 and 3** for accredited health care providers. Documentary requirements as provided for in OWWA Memorandum of Instruction No. 002 series of 2001 shall remain in full force and effect.

Furthermore, please be informed that all claims for confinement within the Philippines must be filed within 60 calendar days after discharge. Confinement abroad, however, can be filed within 180 days from discharge.

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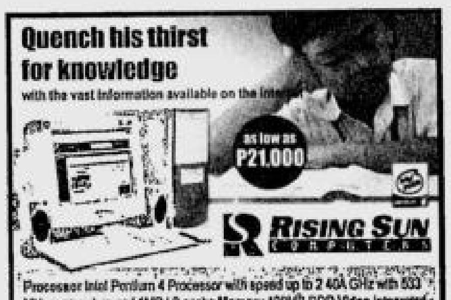

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5:00 – 6:00 PM : Fashion Show by MANGO
6:30 – 8:00 PM : Instituto Cervantes art exhibit entitled "Letra y Figuras"
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Canada rejects taking part in US missile defense

OTTAWA—Canada's minority Liberal government, in a snub to US President George W. Bush, said on Thursday it would not take part in the controversial US missile defense system, which is unpopular with many Canadian voters.

Washington's ambassador to Ottawa said he found the decision "very perplexing" and said the United States would press ahead with the system, which is designed to shoot down ballistic missiles from adversaries such as North Korea.

The announcement marks an abrupt change in policy by Prime Minister Paul Martin, who came to power in December 2003 saying he backed the idea of signing on to the missile system and deepening the integration of the two countries' defenses.

But the idea makes little political sense now. Martin lost his parliamentary majority in the June 2004 election, some Liberal legislators dislike missile defense and the survival of Martin's government depends on a minority party opposed to the system.

"We are announcing today that Canada will not take part in the proposed ballistic missile defense system," Martin told reporters, saying Ottawa would, however, continue to work closely with Washington in matters of defense and foreign affairs.

The decision marks the second time in recent years the Liberals have rejected US military plans. In March 2003, Ottawa refused to take part in the war on Iraq.

"We simply cannot understand why Canada would, in effect, give up its sovereignty, its seat at the table, to decide what to do about a missile that might be heading toward Canada. It's very perplexing to us... we really don't get it," US Ambassador Paul Cellucci told reporters.

Cellucci has complained frequently about what he sees as Canada's miserly defense spending. Martin pointed out that, in a federal budget delivered on Wednesday, Ottawa had promised to pour billions of dollars into its armed forces.

"Ballistic missile defense is not where we will concentrate our efforts. Instead we will act—both alone and with our neighbors—on defense priorities such as those outlined in yesterday's budget," Martin said.

Canadian officials are confident the decision will not prompt Washington to exacerbate two trade disputes involving exports of softwood lumber and live cattle to the United States.

The opposition Conservative Party, however, said Martin's decision means Canadians will suffer.

"Without new emphasis on strengthening our relationship, we can be sure that the resolution of these (trade) problems is more likely to harm Canada than to help it," party leader Stephen Harper told Parliament.

Canada agreed last year that information from the two nations' joint NORAD aerospace defense command could be transmitted to the missile defense network. Defense experts say this means Ottawa is already playing a role in the system.

Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew broke the news on Thursday in an address to Parliament. He spoke in French in a clear signal to the francophone province of Quebec, where the Liberals must increase low levels of support if they are to win an election expected within the next 18 months.

An Ekos poll for the Toronto Star two weeks ago showed that 54 percent of Canadians—and 64 percent of Quebecers—opposed the idea of Canada joining missile defense. *Reuters*

Anglican leaders ask pro-gay US, Canada churches to leave councils

LONDON—The international Anglican Communion is asking the US and Canadian churches to withdraw temporarily from its councils to consider their liberal stand toward homosexuality which has caused a sharp divide.

Capping a week of talks in Northern Ireland, Anglican leaders called on the Episcopal Church in the United States and the Anglican Church of Canada to voluntarily and temporarily withdraw their members from a consultative council.

In the communique issued late Thursday from Newry, the leadership also called for a moratorium on the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of bishops involved in gay relationships.

The church has been sharply divided since the US Episcopal Church in 2003 endorsed the election of an openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson, in the diocese of New Hampshire. At the same time the diocese of New Westminster in Vancouver, Canada, became the first in the communion to introduce a service of blessing for same sex couples.

The debate has seen more liberal elements line up against conservative factions, notably from African branches of the Anglican community, which numbers up to 78 million people.

"We as a body continue to address the situations which have arisen in North America with the utmost seriousness," according to the communique issued after the meeting of 38 primates.

With questions over whether the North American churches accepted the church's teachings on sexual morality, the communique said "the effectiveness of our common mission (is) severely hindered." *AFP*

A PHOTOGRAPHER takes a shot of a girl wearing Peking Opera-style in a stall at an international wedding exhibition in Beijing Feb. 25. The wedding studio running the stall charges 290 yuan ($35) per person for the make-up, dress and picture. The exhibition, aimed at boosting China's wedding industry, opened Friday. AP

New Palestinian Cabinet sworn in after days of crisis

RAMALLAH, West Bank—The Palestinian parliament approved on Thursday a Cabinet of mostly new faces unassociated with the corruption-plagued era of Yasser Arafat, signaling a commitment to reforms viewed as key to peacemaking.

Ratification of the 24-member Cabinet, including 17 newcomers, was widely seen as a victory for change-minded President Mahmoud Abbas after days of political crisis ahead of a 25-nation meeting in London next week on Palestinian reform.

At least seven Arafat loyalists on a Cabinet list first proposed by Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie were replaced by technocrats chosen for their professional skills.

"It is a Cabinet of professionals and I hope it will shoulder its responsibilities," Qurie said after parliament voted in the government by a margin of 54-12, with four abstentions.

Israel and the United States have led international demands for an overhaul of the Palestinian Authority, especially the consolidation of often rival security services to keep militants in check and end violence that has stalled peace efforts for four years.

"What we would like to see is a new policy (of) fighting against the extremists and encouraging the moderates to move toward peace and quiet with Israel," Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said after the parliamentary vote.

Abbas, who has reached a ceasefire with Israel that has boosted hopes for peace, made reform a key issue in the Jan. 9 presidential election. Long-time rival Qurie initially presented a cabinet roster packed with allies of Arafat.

Arafat's death on Nov. 11, however, has left his "old guard" more vulnerable to a younger generation in his dominant Fatah faction. Lawmakers' ratification of a Cabinet was delayed three times this week. *Reuters*

COLD WASHINGTON
Seagulls sit in an inch of snow in front of the US Capitol Building in Washington, Feb. 24. A slow-moving snowstorm is expected to dump three to five inches of snow for the D.C. area, with a winter storm warning in effect. REUTERS

China proposes more direct flights with Taiwan during April festival

BEIJING—China hopes to hammer out a deal with Taiwan for additional direct charter flights between the two sides during holidays and to expand the service to more people following historic flights between the rivals over the Chinese New Year, the government said Friday.

Beijing wants to have direct flights during the upcoming Qingming, or grave sweeping, festival in April, said Pu Zhaozhou, director of the Taiwan department of the Civil Aviation Association of China.

China would like to see the flights operating out of more cities and wants to expand the service to serve not only Taiwanese businesspeople but also students and tourists, Pu said.

China said the proposed new services came from requests made by the Taiwanese side.

"Taiwan businesspeople, Taiwan compatriots and Taiwan aviation authorities have all appealed to us to regularize these direct flights and to offer them during major Chinese festivals," said Li Weiyi, a spokesperson for the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office.

Taiwan had banned direct flights since the Communists won a bloody civil war in 1949 and took over the mainland. The self-ruled, democratic island prohibited the flights because of security concerns with China, which has repeatedly threatened to use force to unify the two sides.

But the two sides managed to strike a deal this year allowing six Chinese and six Taiwanese airlines to operate 48 direct flights between Jan. 29 and Feb. 20.

The planes flew between the Chinese cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Taiwan's two biggest cities: Taipei and Kaohsiung.

"We hope both sides will negotiate as soon as possible," said Pu at a regular news briefing.

China is also hoping to talk with Taiwan about the possibility of chartered cargo flights between the two, said Tang Yi, deputy director of the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office. *AP*

Taiwan hits China antiseparation bill

THE TAIWAN government considers the antiseparation measure, approved at the 10th PRC National People's Congress on Dec. 29, 2004 as an enabling act of legalizing war, authorizing the People's Liberation Army, Armed Police and Militia to resolve the "Taiwan problem" through non-peaceful measures, a statement from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office said Wednesday.

Teco said the law would again declare the "Taiwan problem" as an internal affair and state that no external force should interfere in the Taiwan Strait. The bill will be submitted to the National People's Congress in March for further deliberation.

From the comments of Chinese authorities so far, Taiwan believes that the "anti-separation law" was drafted within the framework of China's constitution under the guiding principles of "peaceful unification" and "one country, two systems," and in strict adherence to the "One China" principle.

China should abandon its plan to pass the measure as it could further strain the Cross-Strait relations and the peace and stability of the region, Teco said.

Taiwan believes that the enactment of the law will unilaterally change the status quo and the present cross-strait political reality of "two separate and equal entities."

The Mainland Affairs Council particularly noted that the proposed antiseparation law fails to recognize the realities that Taiwan is a pluralistic, democratic society where the population enjoys freedom of speech.

The MAC sees that the passage of the measure will give China the absolute power to dominate and shape the cross-strait environment, disregarding the international community's understanding of the situation in the Taiwan Strait. The situation across the Taiwan Strait will surely undergo immediate huge changes.

In a recent poll survey, 83 percent of Taiwanese expressed opposition to the bill. Taiwan believes that the enactment of the law will completely destroy the basis for further exchange and the resumption of dialogue between the two sides of Taiwan Strait.

The government and people of Taiwan are peace-loving, Teco said.

"We also pursue Cross-Strait peace. The ultimate guideline of our Cross-Strait policy is peace and development. It is our also hope to promote peace and development in Taiwan Strait," it added.

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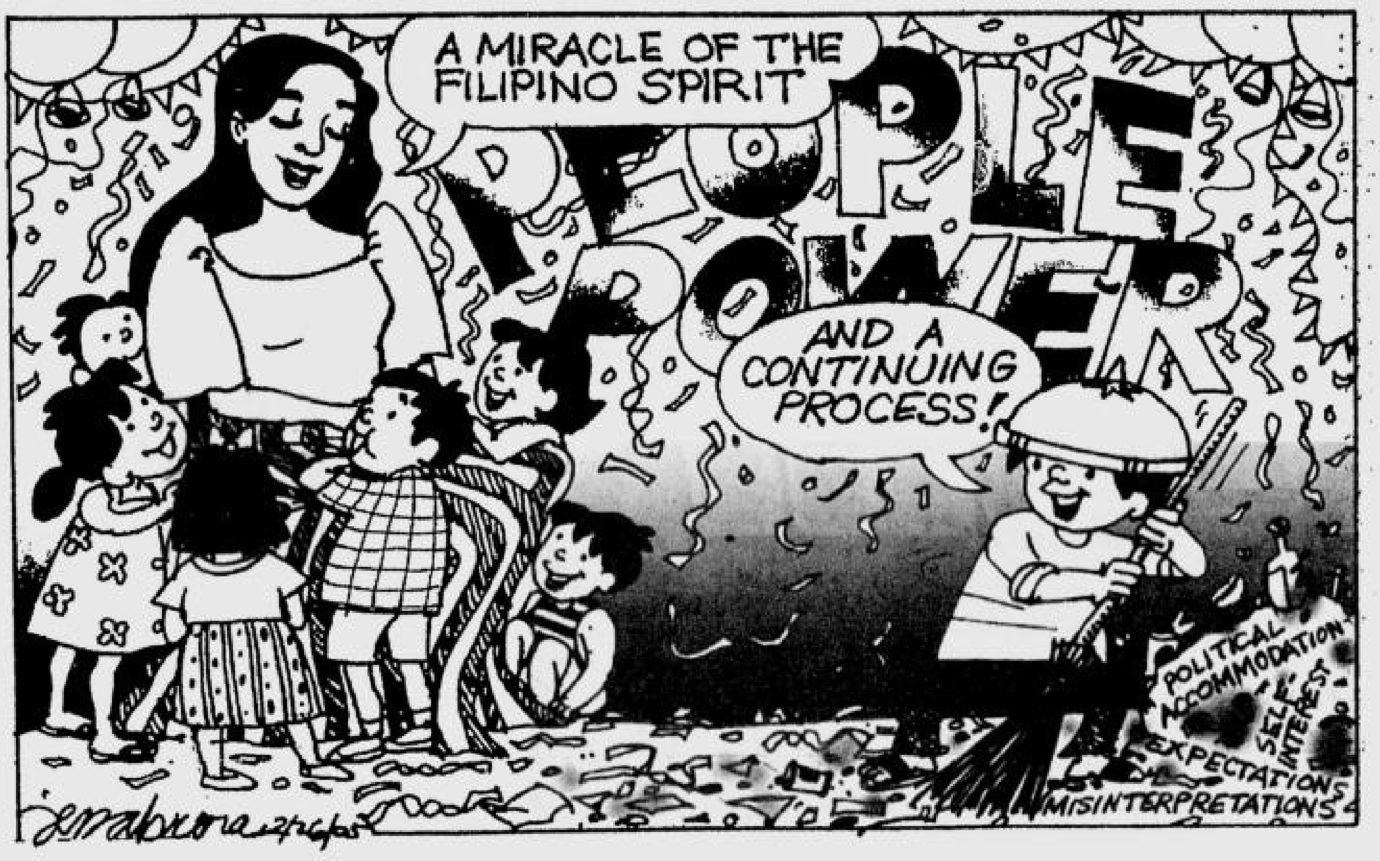

Wrong reasons

EDITORIAL

SUPPORTERS of a national identification card system are quick to point out that we live in a society that demands identification for nearly any activity anyway.

There is merit to this argument. It is true that the government demands identification for many things, and provides all sorts of ways to assure identity. From birth to death certificates, driver's license, SSS, GSIS, TIN, CTC and passport numbers, the government has come up with many creative, time-consuming and income-generating ways to authenticate our individual identities. For virtually every professional calling, there is a corresponding authentication system. So when proponents of a national ID declare that they are proposing something that already exists, they are at least partially correct.

We emphasize the partial quality of their arguments, because supporting a national ID is only defensible when based on promoting administrative efficiency, reducing bureaucratic red tape, easing the lives of a harassed citizenry and discouraging the counterfeiting of documents. If a national ID were proposed so that government could do away with the many redundant and ridiculous identification systems, we would support it. Such a move would make the lives of citizens easier, make transactions more efficient and easier to track, and minimize the paperwork and fees ordinary people are made to endure as a part of life.

However, no such proposal has been made. Instead, convenience for the citizenry and efficiency for the bureaucracy are only promoted with regard to a national ID so as to sweeten popular misgivings over requiring such a card for purposes of national security. The reason many people are skeptical of a national security justification for a national ID is based both on constitutional grounds (such as whether such a card would be used to contradict the constitutionally protected freedom of abode and privacy) as well as practical considerations. If the government cannot even properly issue and regulate the voter's ID card, which only applies to a specific segment of the population (of voting age), how could it possibly handle the processing and distribution of a national ID? The tens of millions of voters still waiting for their ID which the Commission on Elections promised to deliver in time for the May 2004 elections are living examples of the problems associated with having a national ID card.

Inefficient and often criminal implementation of regulations is the bane of good governance in our country. We have wonderful plans, and a terrible record in implementing those plans. To date, no rational, practical, efficient and fiscally prudent proposal for a national ID has been made. At the same time, no serious effort has been put into establishing the parameters in terms of information, usage and scope, which would reassure the public that a national ID would not be used for spying on citizens or for extorting money or information from them.

We could propose that the government first explain to the public what information would go into a state ID, and the self-imposed limits it would place on the use of such a card, before the idea can be taken seriously. But we would rather suggest that the proponents of a national ID undergo a fundamental change in attitude. That attitude must be about service, and not about control. If the government said it wanted to serve the people better by issuing a state ID to every citizen, so that, from cradle to grave, the citizen only has to use one ID, with one number, for a virtually limitless number of transactions, we would support it. Such a proposal would be useful, and indeed, timely. Singaporean citizens have benefited greatly from a unique identification number issued to each citizen, which is used for all public transactions and on all official documents.

However, to say that we need yet another card, with information and uses that are vaguely described, at an undetermined cost, in order to secure an equally undefined and vaguely worded concept such as "national security," or "fighting terrorism," only inspires feelings of insecurity and even terror. As it stands, the national ID proposal gives too much discretion to its proponents, and too little protection to the people who will be required to use it.

The tragedy of Edsa I

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

YESTERDAY marked the 19th anniversary of one of the most remarkable events in the history of our country. This was the people power revolution that thrilled the whole world and earned its unbelieving admiration. On Feb. 25, 1986, the Filipino nation redeemed its lost freedom, not through the force of arms and violence. They did this in a massive demonstration of their faith in peaceful reform and the justice of their cause.

Edsa I, as it is proudly remembered, ended more than 13 years of tribulation for the desperately captive nation. Ferdinand Marcos had become the new despot of Asia. Many of his foes were arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned. Congress was abolished and later replaced by a rubber-stamp Batasang Pambansa. The Supreme Court was intimidated into "legitimizing" the dictatorship. Human rights were disdained and violated. Public funds were cold-bloodedly plundered. The ordinary citizens found themselves defenseless under what was called "constitutional authoritarianism."

The Philippines has been subjected to regimented domination before, first by Spain for more than three centuries, by the British in 1762-64, by the United States for close to five decades, and during the Pacific War by the Japanese belligerent troops. Each of these occupations of our country had its particular cruelty that left indelible livid scars on the national psyche. But all these regimes were *foreign* and so could be easily albeit painfully rationalized.

But the regime of Marcos and his criminal gang was imposed not by foreigners but by fellow Filipinos. They dictated their will upon their own countrymen, not with the ruthless objectiveness of alien tyrants but with full awareness of the maledictions they were visiting on their own people. Marcos knew this as all those who connived with him also did. They knew they were debasing their own race but this did not deter them from their transgressions. This was what made the martial law enforced by Marcos the most heinous rule of all.

The Philippines suffered as the rulers fattened on their iniquities. Erstwhile paupers became instant millionaires because of their ties to Malacañang. Political parties were abolished to give way to the all-powerful KBL that could do no wrong. Enemies of the New Society were eliminated, many of them murdered without accountability. The Armed Forces of the Philippines became the Armed Forces of the President and his murderous and arrogant defender.

The Filipinos are like the carabao, it is said, patient but only up to a point. When that limit is reached, the placid animal becomes a raging beast. We reached that point after that graceless period of unbearable travail, but our quiet tribulation did not erupt in violence. We did not lose our cool or explode in uncontrolled rage. What we did instead was gather at Edsa, not to raise our arms in anger, but to protest our grievances in peace.

There was a handful of heroes at first, and then it grew to a hundred and then to thousands until it swelled to millions of indignant Filipinos. It was a mixed and unusual crowd that represented a cross-section of the aggrieved nation. Political leaders, simple citizens, jeepney drivers and moneyed businessmen, slum dwellers and the elite, students and their teachers, teenagers with their parents, nuns fingering rosaries with watchful ladies bearing flowers, and, yes, even innocent children playing as in a carnival—all of them met at Edsa to dare the hated oppressor and face his mighty tanks with real but muted apprehension of the dictator's weaponed wrath.

The tanks did come but they did not attack. The soldiers were there but did not fire a single shot. One grandmother in a wheelchair confronted them alone and stopped them on their tracks. The defining moment of the victory of Edsa was when the military capitulated and joined the ranks of the jubilant people. Events swiftly followed with the induction of Cory Aquino and Doy Laurel as the duly-elected leaders of the new government. Marcos took his own oath before a fidgety crowd in Malacañang even as a vengeful crowd was rushing at its gates. Soon the despot had escaped to Hawaii, and there was dancing in the streets.

That was what happened during those heady days that climaxed on Feb. 25, 1986. Everyone savored the hope of a new day as the dark night finally ended. The Freedom Constitution would later mandate that all the vestiges of the previous regime would be erased and the rule of law would again reign throughout the land. The economy would be improved for poor and rich alike, criminality would be reduced, social justice would be realized, and real democracy would be restored at last. This was what Edsa I promised.

Have all these noble purposes been pursued and realized? Nineteen years since Edsa I, they are still empty reveries to taunt us of that magnificent people power revolt that made us the model of all oppressed nations still dreaming of freedom. The worst mockery of all is that the scoundrels of martial law are still with us, many of them still lording over us as before, like canonized demons enjoying an unholy immunity. That is the ultimate tragedy of Edsa I.

So, who doesn't have problems?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

SOMETIMES we get so engrossed with our problems that we think we are the only ones who are in such a mess. Strong reminders that that is not the case came two days ago from a couple of participants of the Global Philanthropists Circle's (GPC) Learning Visit to the Philippines.

GPC is an offshoot of the New York-based Synergos Institute, an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to the development of effective, sustainable and locally based solutions to poverty which was founded and chaired by Peggy Dulany, a member of the Rockefeller family who has devoted most of her life to helping the poor empower themselves. Founded three years ago, also by Dulany, GPC has grown to include 50 families from 14 different countries (described as serious philanthropists), including the Philippines' Zobel de Ayala and Lopez families.

To kick off their visit, the participants were briefed by a panel composed of sociologist Randy David, businessman Pedro Roxas, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and myself, with Maria Ressa as moderator, on the current local socio-political-economic situation, with emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals. The learning session turned out to be a two-way street, and the observations of the visitors—first-timers in the country—provided a whole new perspective, or at least a broader and comforting one.

Claudio Gonzalez, who heads the Television Foundation which was created by the largest media group in Mexico as well as the Union of Entrepreneurs in Technology for Education, remarked that Randy might as well have been describing the Mexican situation when he talked about the Philippines—the similarities were so striking. Maybe it was a misery-loves-company reaction, but that made me feel slightly better to know we are not the only ones beset by all these problems, even including poor teacher quality. What was also comforting was his observation that the coordinated response of Philippine business to the challenge of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as described by Pedro Roxas, was something that so far has not yet happened in Mexico. A big pat on the back for socially responsible local business firms.

Ryuji Kitamura also made comparisons. Until he retired in 1994, Kitamura was executive vice president of Itochu Corp., a giant *sogo shosha* or trading company (150 offices in 80 countries) along the lines of Mitsubishi and Marubeni. Although he spent his entire professional life with Itochu, his international exposure (he was the brains behind several extremely successful Itochu ventures) and his 20-year stay in New York distinguish him from the stereotypical Japanese businessman (he is also married to a Filipina, Zeni Co, from Gerona, Tarlac).

Kitamura started his remarks by saying that he was "flabbergasted" by the briefings, because they made him realize that the Philippines and Japan would "dovetail" with each other perfectly, in the sense that the two countries seemed to be on opposite ends of the same problems. The only similarity that he could see was that both countries were deep in debt, with each one of Japan's 126 million citizens figuratively bearing a $50,000 debt burden (the Filipino counterpart would be roughly $1,200), although in the case of Japan, the debt was all domestic. Japan's government does not borrow from abroad.

The Philippines has a problem of deforestation and denudation? Japan has the opposite problem, said Kitamura. There, the forests are overgrown, because there is just no one available (or interested) to cut down the trees. Overgrown forests apparently also have devastating negative effects.

The Philippines has a problem with rapid population growth and lack of family planning? Well, Japan has the opposite problem: a too-slow population growth and too much family planning.

The Philippines is heavily on the young side? Japan's population is heavily on the old side, with 60-year-old sons and daughters who are themselves retired taking care of their 90-year-old parents.

The Philippines exports caregivers, Japan needs caregivers.

The Philippines has a problem of too little savings? Japan's problem is too much savings. The Japanese, facing a longer life span, have to ensure that their savings are sufficient to carry them through. So they squirrel away what they can. Kitamura mentioned a figure well over $1 trillion in financial assets held by Japan's middle class.

Elementary schoolchildren drop out here? In Japan, the pressure on them to make good in school is tremendous.

The Philippines is No. 6 on the list of 10 "happiest" countries in spite of all its troubles? Well Japan seems to be the exact opposite. In spite of its successes (or because of them), said Kitamura, the Japanese have the highest suicide rate in the world. Apparently the pressures attendant to those successes become too much to bear. (Which reminds me of the saying that success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get.)

So, Kitamura concluded, it might be a good idea if Japan and the Philippines merged ("dovetail" was the word he used). Then their problems would disappear!

A very wise man is Kitamura-san, underneath all that humor.

There is one other observation that he made, which should give us pause: The successful countries in Asia are all countries where the nation's interests are the overarching goal of the people, with individual or family interests a very far second. *Bayan muna.*

No more Edsa revolts

COMMENTARY

Jose V. Abueva

THROUGH people power at Edsa in February 1986, citizens en masse ended the 13-year Marcos dictatorship and banished him into exile. Their battle cry was "Freedom, Justice and Democracy." Amazed at our extraordinary feat, the world applauded as some oppressed peoples took heart and followed our example.

In January 2001, not only at Edsa but also in various cities, citizens employed people power once more to bring down an abusive and corrupt president. We felt good once again, but people power could not bring us what we really need as a developing nation.

The formal restoration of free elections and democracy under the 1987 Constitution hardly made a dent on our pervasive problems of mass poverty, unemployment, corruption, social inequality, injustice, rebellion and the environment. Underdevelopment and population still force hordes of Filipinos to migrate as our country lags farther behind our advanced neighbors in the region.

Despite its positive features, the 1987 Constitution did not enable us to rebuild our institutions for good governance. We continued with our obsolete unitary system with its powers, authority and resources centralized in the national government at the expense of local governments, leaders, citizens, and entrepreneurs and countrywide development.

We restored our adversarial separation of powers in a presidential system that daily creates conflict and gridlock between the executive branch and Congress, with a vengeance. Our obsolete form of government and dysfunctional political parties sustain our politics of personality, patronage, cronyism and corruption without public accountability. All along, exploiting our discontent, our politicized military and self-seeking politicians foment more discord and political instability. Rebellion persists. Some sensational media harp on the negative reality and thereby aggravate it.

We should recognize our glaring lack of "good governance," the sustained, institutionalized capacity of the government to make the right decisions and policies and to implement them effectively to solve our problems and realize our national goals. This lack is what sets the Philippines apart from our progressive democratic neighbors (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand) and our progressive authoritarian neighbors (Singapore and Malaysia).

Basically, good governance is the primordial responsibility of our national leadership. But since the mid-1960s, we have suffered a collective failure of our political leadership to reform our institutions of governance for the common good. Instead, most of our leaders want to preserve our traditional political system in which their power is rooted and nurtured.

Pervasive poverty, insecurity and dependency, as well as lack of civic competence, compel many citizens to play their passive role in traditional politics. Our kind of capitalist or market economy also perpetuates our elitist political system. We need reform-minded business leaders to push for institutional reforms for good governance.

Moreover, the status quo of bad governance is sustained if we cannot build a deeper sense of nationhood, a stronger commitment to the common good and the national interest, spirituality, moral values and modern ethical behavior. We need responsible and reform-minded citizens in a growing middle class and a modern political culture.

In last year's presidential campaign, President Macapagal-Arroyo was the only candidate who openly advocated Charter change toward a federal and parliamentary political system, to break the inertia of bad governance. The fiscal crisis has postponed action on Charter change and, perhaps, increased resistance to badly needed constitutional reforms.

We must realize that shifting to a federal-parliamentary system is a strategic investment in good governance and a better future—to free our people from poverty and dependency and corruption, to compete more effectively in the global economy.

Critics of Charter change point to its high cost and divisiveness. We should realize that the collapse of our constitutional democracy is the real cost of not changing our obsolete unitary-parliamentary system. Our people's dissatisfaction with our centralized, elitist democracy invites violent, authoritarian alternatives as we see no escape from bad governance, desperation and hopelessness.

No more Edsa revolts! Instead, let us institutionalize people power by reforming and modernizing our various political institutions, including elections and political parties. Only then can we have good governance through responsible and effective leaders and citizens, and a supportive new political culture.

Jose V. Abueva is the president of Kalayaan College and a former president of the University of the Philippines.

New directions

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"PEOPLE Power against Corruption" was the theme of this year's Edsa commemoration, in many ways a step forward from the celebrations of previous years.

Just a few years after the first euphoric anniversaries, the celebration had degenerated into an exercise of political assessment. Media and political observers took to gauging the popularity of the current administration by counting the number of warm bodies massed on the highway or around the Edsa Shrine and People Power monument. The configurations of power and who was in current favor with the powers-that-be were tracked by studying the guest list at the annual commemorations, who got to sit on stage, or who got to play a role in the program. It got to a point that those in charge of organizing the event, throwing up their hands at the annual headcounting going on, were constrained to declare that the significance of the event, or the popularity of the players, shouldn't be judged by the size of the crowd alone or the heat with which the slogans were shouted or the hymns sung.

In time, as the Edsa anniversary grew more muted and fell into routine, an even worse fate befell the national ceremony of remembrance. It became a mere repository of memories, evoking proud reminiscences by the participants, but losing ground in terms of meaning among the young who were too young to understand what Edsa really meant, or who hadn't even been born when the uprising took place. Would Edsa go the way of our Independence Day celebrations? Or even present-day commemorations of World War II which, while re-telling a story of both the horrors of war and the heroism of a generation, are barely observed by the descendants of both victims and victors?

* * *

PERHAPS to avoid this fate, and keep the lessons learned at Edsa still meaningful almost two decades after those glorious four days, the organizers of this year's event chose a theme that was as meaningful in 1986 as it still is, sadly, today.

A full-page ad put out by the Edsa People Power Commission points the way: "Let us put People Power to work again to fight the new enemy—the dictatorship of corruption, the dictatorship of poverty, and the dictatorship of opportunities stolen from a future generation."

To illustrate how serious and "real" this new people power struggle is, the early morning rites at the People Power Monument featured the signing (or the re-enactment of the signing) of memoranda of understanding between government offices and NGOs, led by the Coalition against Corruption, in focused and specific programs designed to curb corruption in the bureaucracy.

For instance, at the defense department, the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, Procurement Watch and Makati Business Club will work together on the recruitment and training of volunteers who will be assigned as observers in bids and awards committees, to prevent corruption in the award of projects and contracts.

Expanding its original mission as an electoral watchdog, Namfrel will be working with the Department of Health on the monitoring of the delivery and inventory of medicines in all 75 DOH-retained hospitals and 15 "Centers for Health Development" nationwide. The program, it is hoped, will prevent "ghost" deliveries, under-delivery and overpricing of medicines.

* * *

THE DOH-Namfrel program is actually a replication of a formula that was proven highly effective when the DepEd let NGOs monitor and report to them on the delivery of textbooks in public schools. And to this end, G-Watch of the Ateneo School of Government, supported by the Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN), Namfrel and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, will work with the DepEd to further expand the textbook monitoring program, with the goal of getting more parents-teachers associations and NGOs involved in "ensuring the delivery of the right quantity and quality of books."

Of course, the two most notorious agencies when it comes to corruption are not exempt. At the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Makati Business Club and TAN will assist the agency in its campaign to raise revenues by improving collections and the agency's own internal systems. At the Bureau of Customs, the MBC and TAN will also help the agency raise revenue collection by preventing smuggling and improving its internal systems.

Even Congress is part of the program, albeit only indirectly. Code-NGO will be working with the Department of Public Works and Highways on monitoring projects funded through the PDAF of legislators "to ensure transparency in the use of the fund at the local level."

In all, there are 12 anti-corruption projects covered by MOAs signed by NGOs and private sector representatives with different government agencies. The presence of the department heads or other high-ranking officials at the signing rites signaled the government's wholehearted cooperation in the effort.

* * *

I ASKED Bill Luz, one of the organizers of the Coalition against Corruption, if there wasn't a danger that the NGO observers and members of bids and awards committees would be coopted in the same manner that their counterparts in local governments have been.

He replied that one way of going around that risk is to put "our CEOs and really senior people from the private sector" to sit in the government bodies or to deal with officials. Under the tycoons' watchful eye, it is hoped, bureaucrats might not be too inclined to engage in their usual shenanigans.

Cory Aquino, in her brief talk at the end of the Mass at the Edsa Shrine, noted how so many people express frustration at the "failure" of Edsa without stopping to ask themselves if they had done their share to promote the Edsa spirit. Involvement in these NGOs and anti-corruption projects would be a good first step.

A 1790 visit to Batangas

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE FIRST and oldest inhabitants of Batangas were the negritos of the mountains called Aetas. Then came the Burnayes or Borneans who came to trade but, seeing that the land was rich, commenced their conquest with firearms, causing the Aetas to flee to the far reaches of the mountains.

The Borneans brought their wives and started families while others intermarried with the local Aeta women that they had captured and called their children Malaya Dayhagan. There were also Muslims from Mindanao, Joloanos, Chinese and Malabars who married natives and usurped or took possession of the land with arms, driving the Aetas away. They lived without any authority over them and according to whatever law they wished.

The oldest family names, according to Franciscans and the Jesuit friar chronicles, were Caponpon, Gatdula, Hianta or Nianta, but they did not enjoy the privileges of the Lacandulas of Manila.

In 1570, Legaspi arrived in the South with six vessels and four Augustinian friars. The following year, they took Manila and established the government and metropolis of the Philippine colony. From Intramuros, they branched out to conquer the rest of Luzon, starting with Laguna, Cavite and Batangas. Taal was conquered by Juan de Salcedo who was wounded by an arrow in the leg in one of the encounters.

In Taal, the Church of St. Martin (said to be the special devotion of Fr. Martin de Rada) was built in 1572. Its first prior was the venerable Fr. Agustin de Albuquerque, first apostle of the Kumintang. Some say that the word "Taal" signified a tree, but others claimed that it referred to sugar cane, which was abundant in the area.

The first town or settlement of Taal was Balangon where the walls were still preserved at the time of Andres de Castro's visit in 1790. There were ruins of the town that the Moros burnt and destroyed in the 17th century. For security reasons, the town had been transferred to the banks of Bombon Lake.

This second Taal remained until 1754, when the volcano erupted for the fourth time and destroyed it. But the church's walls of lime and stone still stood and became objects of religious veneration where many Christians lay buried.

The third Taal is where it is located now, half a quarter league from the sea in a high place, dry and healthy, with a good view but with winds that assaulted you. It was the prior, Fr. Martin de Aguirre, and Alcalde Mayor D. Jose Ayuso who went to live in Batangas and established the Cabecera and Casa Real.

De Castro visited for nine days and observed that since there were many houses in the town, when he went for his afternoon walks the dogs did not bark or disturb him at night, which was not the case in other towns. Nor were there any mosquitoes, bats in the temple and cockroaches. He believed it was the strong odor of sulfur that drove them away. It was however true that thunderbolts and earthquakes were frequent and more terrible because of the proximity of the volcano, which was only an hour by horseback.

The new Taal stood on high stony ground as though presiding over the whole cove of Balayan. It had many crevices and ravines with a beautiful view.

Balayan had more than 2,000 tributes and some 9,000 souls. It had a small fort on the beach with cannons and another in Casasay, where there were many houses of good wood but with roofs of straw. Three were also many *mestizo* Sangleys, owners of stores selling clothes and drugs.

Taal once had jurisdiction over the towns of Balayan, Lian, Nasugbu, San Jose, Bauang and others that were once mere *visitas*. Taal was their origin—they came from her and were the children of Taal.

Balayan was a very rich town situated in a cove of the same name, observed De Castro. It was 16 leagues from Manila to the southeast and was run by the same priors of Taal who built a church of lime and stone, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

In 1580, Balayan was turned over to the regular clergy together with the parishes of Mindoro, according to Fr. Gaspar de S. Agustin. The Moros burnt and razed the town thrice, but despite that, it still had 2,000 tributes. They produced gold in powder form, salt, sugar, wine and coconut oil, white and colored cotton that was made into much sought-after fabrics.

The cows, horses and carabaos were many and of good stock, especially in the ranches of Lian and Nasugbu. The people planted a lot of rice and wheat and from these alone earned 30,000 pesos annually for the town. Aside from tobacco, anil, sibuacal and other produce such as beeswax, tar (for caulking), cabonegro, and coconuts were brought to Sunday market for sale.

The second town of Taal was Bauang. It served as its *visita* from the year 1600, when it separated and obtained its own minister. It was first situated on the banks of Bombon Lake where the old walls could still be seen. For different reasons, it was relocated to two other sites and finally planted near the sea not very far from Punta de Azufre and the islet of Maricaban. There a church of lime and stone , 80 varas (1 vara was equivalent to .84 meters) long and 15 wide, was built by Fr. Blas Vidal with the help of many local master builders. The church and convent were surrounded by a wall with four bulwarks and cannons [illegible]ing Fr. Miguel Oraña's plans.

(From an account by Pedro And[illegible] Castro y Amadeo.)

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.

Our other mother

YOUNG BLOOD

Nicole Perreras

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

WE all can't be children forever, and just as we set aside our childhood toys and fairy tales, so do we outgrow our need for *yayas*.

Bibeth was my brother's *yaya*. A midwife by profession, she could, on demand, also be a soother of wounds, a teller of stories and a keeper of secrets. She would often read to us from her beat-up yellow Bible full of pictures, and she could make the most beautiful Halloween costumes. Once, she turned my brother into King Tut, with a headdress made from an old bleach bottle. She read the same books I did. And we would often talk these stories over before bedtime.

But one day, she left for the United States—to care for other children from another family. We, my brother and I, were too old for nursemaids by then, but we selfishly refused to relinquish her to the tantrums, complaints, joys and tears of what we stoutly declared to be an inferior breed of children. Still we lost her to a better life in Garden City, New York.

Every time we go to the United States, we make it a point to visit Bibeth. The first time we saw her, we were eager to find fault with her new charges. We checked for signs of our beloved *yaya*'s maltreatment. But no, she had not been chained to any basement though her room was the entire ground floor with a television and bathroom. She was a little thinner and paler, but on the whole, she was looking fine, though a little wistful and wan. As we walked the few blocks to her *alaga*'s elementary school to pick him up, I had to concede that the path she'd chosen was better than anything we could have given her back home. And I hated that.

Every visit would inevitably end in tears shed far from Bibeth's sharp eyes—eyes that inspired fear one moment and showed total, unconditional love the next.

The most recent episode of shameful weeping was on the Long Island North Railway Transit back to Grand Central Station in the heart of New York City. As tears fell on to my ready Kleenex, I averted my eyes from my brother and other early morning commuters from the suburbs of New Jersey. God only knows what the latter were thinking of this short, Asian kid who looked barely old (or tall) enough to be traveling alone on a rickety train. But my heart hurt. It was hurting for Bibeth and the millions of miles placed between us.

You know what really gets the tears flowing? Knowing that despite the hardships of being alone in a foreign country, having to support her family in the province and staying as a "TNT" in America, Bibeth always thinks of us, remembers us and collects things she knows we would love so much. She gives us so many presents that I know she has spent months thinking over. We always feel guilty accepting so much from her.

She is so good at giving us things we love, like the postage stamp set of American Illustrators she gave me and the Star Wars collector's items she gave my brother. She knows how to make us happy because she raised us, too. She was our other mother.

It was from Bibeth that I first learned what it meant to be tolerant of other religions. She is a Seventh Day Adventist. When I was about 7 years old, I asked her many times what that was, and she would always say that we all believed in the same God and that each person talked to his Creator as his individual conscience dictated. She pointed out the differences of our worship, but I never sensed her making any comparisons. To her, what mattered most was that we both believed in Goodness, Truth and Integrity.

When we stayed at her new family's house overnight (and mind you, they are nothing but hospitable and caring and more than you could ever ask for), I couldn't believe I was stupidly jealous of their 2-year-old child. Bibeth had showered the kid with giant toys and ponies and Barbie dolls!

I knew I was being unfair. My brother and I are grown-ups. We can no longer run to *yaya*and ask for *pasalubong* after her day off. How can I express more strongly how much I wish Bibeth could come home and be part of the family again?

I hate the fact that to have a so-called "better life" she had to fly to another country like so many other OFWs. Yes, I suppose I am happy for Bibeth. She is happy, too. She has settled into a new green room she sponge-painted herself, with our pictures on her dressing table. But I guess I just miss her terribly and I wish her and her new family all the best.

I think of other people around the world, working for loved ones in cold places far from home, people who plod on for the sake of children, spouses and parents. They should not be sad because here in the good ol' broken-down Pinas we know as home, people remember them fondly.

I wish Bibeth could have seen me in my white uniform on my first day in medical school or the lanky, good-looking skateboarder my brother has grown into. (She still refuses to believe he already has a girlfriend.)

Maybe one day—one distant day—we'll all get our act together and our country will be able to provide the good life for each of its citizens. But this is a naïve dream, perhaps better kept within the confines of nurseries along with scraped knees and golden childhood days. For now, we have to settle for phone calls, e-mails and musings such as this to bring Bibeth close to us just as if she'd never left.

Nicole Perreras, 22, is a first year medical student at the University of Santo Tomas.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Black and white

"Everybody pretends not to see this, but it's here in black and white. In fact, if we repeal just this one sentence, then they would no longer be exempt."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo on exemptions enjoyed by independent power producers (IPP) from the value added tax

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Unite against terrorism

FEAR and anger once again overwhelmed peace-loving people when terror struck on the night of Feb. 14 in the cities of Davao, General Santos and Makati. The bombings betray once more how low terrorists value human life. They are, indeed, an aberration in a civilized society.

We, the local political leaders of the Province of Sulu, condemn in the strongest terms possible the Feb. 14 bombings which claimed several lives. Our prayers are with the families of those who died and we grieve with them.

As we face renewed terrorist threats and dangers, let us unite and stand more vigilant against those who would trample upon our freedom and right to live harmoniously and safely. Together, we shall overcome!

Let us also find relief in the reassuring efforts of our national leadership to bring the criminals to justice and restore law and order.

—ABDURAHMAN K. ARBISON,
mayor, Municipality of Luuk, ARMM,
and president,
League of Municipalities
of the Philippines, Sulu Chapter

Raw intelligence reports

THIS is in connection with the letter titled "Not behind bogus raid" (PDI, 2/8/05), where Police Senior Supt. Federico E. Laciste disclaimed participation in a raid. Below the letter is the reply of INQUIRER reporter Christian V. Esguerra, who stood by his report.

Way back on Jan. 29, 1993, the newspapers came out with a "report" submitted by then Chief Insp. Federico E. Laciste to then Vice President Joseph Estrada, naming eight Makati RTC judges (one of whom had already resigned to join a big Makati law firm) as involved in following-up drug cases. In his usual no-nonsense style of governance, Estrada came out hammer and tongs against the allegedly corrupt judges, leading us to suspect that Laciste served only as a willing tool of the ambitious Estrada.

The Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee conducted an investigation, and Laciste could not produce any evidence at all, leading him to lamely explain to our executive judge that what he submitted was based on "raw intelligence reports," meaning, idle gossip in the marketplace.

I am inclined to believe Esguerra's report as against the very self-serving clarification made by Laciste.

—SALVADOR P. DE GUZMAN JR.
retired judge

Reign of vendors

DOES Mayor Lito Atienza's program "Buhayin ang Maynila" also include "Buhayin ang Vendors sa Maynila"?

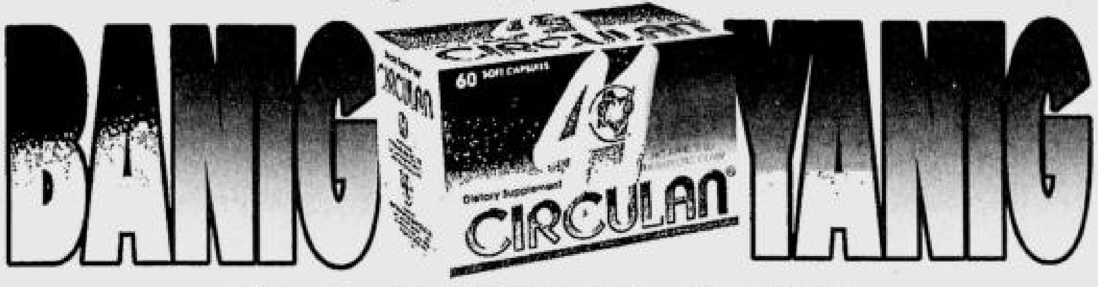
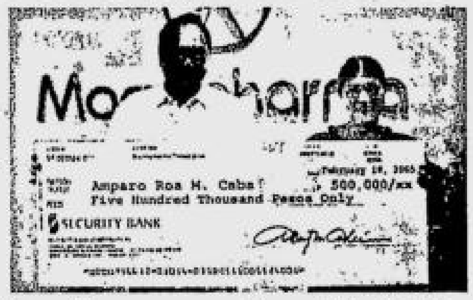
Illegal vendors have sprouted in every nook and cranny of Manila's major thoroughfares, occupying even the middle of the streets.

Escoda and Pedro Gil in the Malate area are glaring examples of Manila's chaotic sidewalks. The notoriety of these vendors, who show no respect whatsoever for pedestrians, can be attributed partly to lenient law enforcement.

Because Atienza is at loggerheads with Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando on the issue of sidewalk clearing, some unscrupulous lawmen are making a killing at the expense of poor pedestrians and commuters alike.

The good mayor of Manila should put sanity on our sidewalks and stop the reign of anarchy on our streets if he wants to move the city forward on the road to progress.

—PEDRO REFUERZO JR.,
6737 Taylo St.,
Makati City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Mayor tagged as vice mayor's killer

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—In a twist of events, the supposed eyewitness to the Feb. 2 murder of Vice Mayor Jimmy Chua has tagged Laoag Mayor Michael Fariñas as behind the killing.

In a prepared statement he read over dzJC-Aksyon Radio on Friday, Councilor Melvin de la Cuesta said Fariñas "accidentally shot him (Chua) to death" inside a video bar early morning of Feb. 2.

De la Cuesta said his previous statement identifying two motorcycle-riding men as the hit men "was all sham and concocted (meant to) cover up the shooting."

He said: "I am very sorry. I do not want to hurt Mayor Fariñas and his family. I cannot have this act of ungratefulness."

"I know that in revealing (the truth), I am risking my life and my family. Despite threats to my life, my conscience bothers me to tell the truth."

Fariñas immediately denied the accusations, describing De la Cuesta's revelation as a "demolition job" by his political rivals.

"This is a serious accusation and I vehemently deny this. There's no truth to this," Fariñas said in a press statement.

Fariñas, flanked by his wife Chevylle, issued the statement shortly after arriving from Manila. He said he did not intend to call a press conference but decided to meet the reporters "to immediately set the record straight."

He refused to entertain further questions, saying there was a need to consult with his lawyer.

"I can only surmise that there was money and threat involved. Politics came in and big names at that," he said.

Fariñas added: "If only [De la Cuesta] had a choice, he would not have signed the document."

De la Cuesta said he, along with Fariñas, Supt. Joel Pagdilao, city police chief, and Chua were all seated in the table inside the bar when the alleged accidental shooting took place.

The councilor said: "I saw Fariñas swayed his right hand upward, and while doing so, I heard a gun fire. I (then) saw Chua's head slumped on the table (and) blood oozing from his right temple.

De la Cuesta said he then saw the mayor dropping a small pistol on the table.

De la Cuesta did not say whether the mayor was playing with his gun when the shooting occurred.

Mangyan group won't flee amid NPA, Army clash

TAUBUHID Mangyans gather materials to build a house. This group of Mangyans fled their community in the mountains of Mindoro after six days of fighting between New People's Army and government soldiers.
MADONNA T. VIROLA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

CALINTAAN, Occidental Mindoro—The Taubuhid Ilap (elusive), the traditional Mangyan group found only in Calintaan and Sablayan, refused to evacuate amid heavy fighting between government soldiers and communist rebels.

"The Taubuhid Ilap would rather die in their native place," Tasardo Samson told the INQUIRER. "They follow their ancestors, although they are afraid, shaking and cannot eat."

Samson said the Taubuhid Ilap asked the military to leave them alone.

There are two groups of Taubuhid Mangyans, one of the seven Mangyan tribes—the Taubuhid Di Mailap (non-elusive) and the Taubuhid Ilap (elusive).

"They don't consult a doctor, don't receive rice and other items. The women wear *'awyan'* (tree bark)," described Fausto Nuviloso, leader of the group called Famatudi (Fakasadian Mgaguyang Taubuhid Daga Inc. or Samahang Tribong Taubuhid sa Lupaing Ninuno).

Taubuhid Ilap Rolan Dante, who could not contain his fear, came from Sitio Sibluan (part of Iglit-Baco National Park). There are 11 families there.

The place is a five-hour walk to the barangay hall without any baggage. "If there's baggage, the travel time is double," Nuviloso said.

Asked what they knew about the problem between the Army and the rebels, he said: "We don't know what they are quarreling about. I hope they come to terms and unite."

Children here cowered in fear every time they saw and heard helicopters coming. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Villagers say Naga dump fire makes them ill

NAGA CITY—For two weeks now, toxic fumes from an open dump in this city, about a kilometer from the city hall, continue to pester residents as combustible garbage burns uncontrollably.

But the city government here has expressed helplessness in controlling the burning garbage when methane and other combustible gases self-ignite.

Jeremias Abainza, dump manager, said they had done all they could to put out the fire using fire trucks every time the garbage reignited but to no avail.

Abainza said controlling the burning garbage had always been their concern but, he said, it was almost impossible to stop the reignition because of the presence of combustible gases underneath the mountain of garbage.

Obnoxious

In the immediate vicinity where the dump is located, residents have been complaining about the obnoxious fumes that envelope the community in the wee hours of the morning when the wind blows toward their direction.

Martina Ornulfo, 66, said the garbage fumes had caused her to suffer an unusual sticky cough while her 11 grandchildren suffered from different kinds of respiratory illnesses.

Respiratory problems that include cough, runny nose and asthma are common among adults and children who have been exposed continuously to the garbage fumes.

Christian Escano, 24, complained that the garbage fumes had already afflicted his two-year-old son with asthma.

Like Escano, Yollynor Rito, 28, also complained that her three-year-old daughter is now suffering from severe asthma.

Suffering

"When the garbage fumes enter our house, they stay until they dissipate. At my age at 67, I am now suffering from asthma and have to take my medicine frequently these days," Julieta Milano said.

Abainza said the city government was not to blame for the effects on the health of the residents because they had already offered relocation for them.

He said despite the offer of relocation, the residents chose to stay around the vicinity of the dump.

The dump manager added that the city government had also offered medical examination of affected residents for a minimal fee but they refused to take the offer.

Jesus R. Bongalonta, senior environmental management specialist of the city environmental office, said the city government has no other option but to maintain the open dump even though the Clean Air Act prohibits it.

Bongalonta said the 35-year-old dump has been installed with material recovery facility to check the build-up of garbage. *Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luzon Bureau*

2,000 US, British retirees on board QE2 take tour of Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—About 2,000 American and British retirees aboard the international cruise ship Queen Elizabeth 2 arrived here on Thursday for a day-long visit to various tourist sites inside this former American naval base.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Alfredo Antonio said the arrival of the luxury ship "evidently showed the successful transformation of the former US naval facility into progressive industrial and tourism purposes."

"We provided our guests with the traditional fiesta experience to give them a taste of the Filipino hospitality and charm we are known for. We also hope that, through the cultural show, our foreign visitors were entertained and at the same time had learned something about our culture," Antonio said.

The travelers took time to visit Subic's Safari Adventure, whale and sea lion shows, bird park, butterfly garden and the beaches of Grande Island.

After docking at Subic Bay, Queen Elizabeth 2, which is considered as one of the world's most famous luxury liners, will set sail for Japan and other destinations in the Asia-Pacific rim.

To fast-track the transformation of what was left of the former US military port facilities, the SBMA has tapped the participation of the private sector to develop a P160-million passenger terminal to accommodate international cruise ships traveling within the Asia-Pacific region.

Global Terminal and Development Inc. (GTDI) is set to inaugurate next month the first phase development of the Rivera Wharf located inside the former ship repair facility, which has been converted into a world-class port terminal.

Rose Baldeo, GTDI president, said the company would promote and market the Subic Freeport here and abroad as an international port destination for luxury liners while developing a one-stop cruise ship facility complemented with a world-class passenger terminal and tourist parks.

"The visit of Queen Elizabeth 2 in Subic Freeport would hopefully serve as a magnet for other luxury liner ships to come here and include the freeport as part of their regular route for Asia or even their world tour packages," Baldeo said.

Commissioned into service in 1987, the ship has sailed over five million nautical miles and has carried more than two million passengers on more than 1,200 voyages. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

6 village officials jailed over public market bidding scam

MATI, Davao Oriental—At least six officials of Barangay Calapagan in Lupon town have been in jail since Monday after a local court ordered their arrests in connection with the graft charges filed against them by a former colleague.

Senior Insp. Primo dela Guardia, Lupon town police chief, identified the arrested officials as barangay chair Alfeo Lacno and barangay councilors Noel Pobadora, Carmelito Mocoy, Maria Lasduce, Arturo Lacno and Yulo Garcia.

Dela Guardia said the arrest order was issued by Judge Pelagio Paguican of the Regional Trial Court Branch 32.

The INQUIRER learned that former barangay councilor Jimmy Yongco lodged the complaint against the six officials for alleged irregularities in the P1-million public market project in Barangay Calapagan.

Yongco said Lacno and the five other officials rigged the bidding in favor of a contractor and allegedly made money out of that decision.

Lacno denied the charges, saying it was politically motivated but he would not elaborate.

Speaking over Radyo Natin here, the village chief said there was no irregularity in the bidding process for the public market because it was very transparent. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Court stops school from barring student from attending class over computer prank

BACOLOD CITY—A regional trial court here has stopped a private school in Victorias City from barring a senior student from attending classes after she was found to have engaged in a computer prank that ruined the reputation of a classmate.

The court said there could be other ways to discipline the student without ruining her future even as it stressed that its position should not be construed as prejudging the case.

The 15-year-old student was barred from school after she admitted that she, and two classmates, created an account for their "enemy" at "Friendster.com," where they wrote testimonials full of obscenities and vulgarities maligning her reputation.

They also downloaded alleged pornographic images from the Internet and pasted them in the account of the victim, which they named "Salapi-on."

Bacolod Regional Trial Court Judge Fernando Elumba on Friday issued the temporary restraining order against the St. Mary Mazzarello School.

The court was acting on a case filed by the parents of Krysta (not her real name) for nullification of disciplinary sanctions, damages with prayer for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the school, school principal Sr. Maria Pacencia Bandalan and the Department of Education Negros Occidental division, represented by Oscar Tison.

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, counsel of Krysta, said his client was barred from attending classes effective Feb. 2 for alleged violation of the school's student handbook.

Court records showed that sometime in December 2004, Krysta and two of her classmates created the "Salapi-on" account at "Friendster.com" in December 2004.

The affected student learned of the Salapi-on account on Dec. 17 and immediately informed Bandalan about the website entries.

In a conference with Krysta's father in January, the school's Disciplinary Board members informed him of the gravity of his daughter's offense and that she had admitted in writing that she was the one who started the idea of making the Friendster account for "Salapi-on."

The father was informed that his daughter's case was already ground for exclusion and expulsion because she previously committed several counts of misbehavior and that her present case constituted gross misconduct and immorality.

The board ruled that Krysta would be allowed to continue her studies and graduate subject to certain conditions. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'GUERRILLA' LOGGING
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn (right) and Vice Mayor Lucilo Bayron (2nd from right) inspect a truckload of illegally cut lumber being transported in Puerto Princesa. Hagedorn has waged war on what he called "guerrilla" logging, or the operations of illegal logging syndicates in the city.

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Church store spreads blessing of cheap drugs

PHARMACIST Jeane Alibagon (right) with the other staff members of the drugstore NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City

ARE your medicines effective? Maybe they're fake."

Pharmacist Jeane Alibagon is used to this kind of reaction from customers when told about the prices of their medicines.

Four years after it opened, the Jaro Archdiocesan Social Action Center (Jasac) Drugstore continues to surprise customers who are grudgingly accustomed to expensive and branded medicines.

"Many still think that if it's cheap, it's inferior," said Alibagon.

The drugstore has proven otherwise. Its medicines sell at a third of the average prices set by most drugstores, but the quality is the same.

A tablet of Adalat, a drug to treat high blood pressure, costs only P5 compared to P30 in other drugstores, while a 500-mg Amoxicillin capsule, an antibiotic, costs only P1.90 compared to the common price of P3.

The painkiller mefenamic acid (500 mg) costs at least P2 in other drugstores, but is sold at only P1.30 at the Jasac drugstore. A 500-mg paracetamol tablet costs only 40 centavos compared to the usual P1.

"*Tama ka, barato* (It's very cheap)," said Merlie Susal, 55, a laundrywoman from Barangay Balabag in Pavia, Iloilo. She buys Prednisone tablets for her asthmatic son at P1.30 each, compared to P2 charged in other drugstores.

Jasac has maintained a 10-percent markup on the prices of medicines since the drugstore opened at the Pius XII Institute behind the Jaro Cathedral in August 2001.

"We want to keep the prices as low as possible because we know most medicines are beyond the reach of the poor who need them most," said Msgr. Meliton Oso, Jasac director.

The drugstore is a dream-come-true for Oso and the Jasac staff.

Frustrations

Since 1990, the center's staff members have been frustrated by the lack of medicines for their weekly medical and dental consultations.

The medicines they gave free to patients were mostly solicited from the Department of Health and other government agencies. The patients were encouraged to donate any amount to help pay for the snacks of volunteer doctors.

Since they had no money to buy medicines, the patients merely threw away the doctors' prescriptions, said Angie Balatongle, coordinator of Jasac's Alay Kapwa Relief and Emergency Desk.

The staff was also constrained by the limited supply of medicines from government agencies.

During the staff's meeting in July 2001, the idea of putting up a drugstore selling cheap medicines came up. The members readily agreed despite their lack of experience in running a business.

The drugstore started operations three months later, from a seed fund of P6,000, which was loaned from the Alay Kapwa program. The capital was used to purchase an initial set of medicines, mostly anticough drugs, analgesics, antibiotics and vitamins.

The drugstore and its low prices immediately caught the attention of the people, especially the poor. Customers have steadily increased, some even coming even from the hinterland towns.

Staff personnel also advise customers about the prescribed medications. They offer cheaper alternatives and educate buyers about generic drugs, traditional and herbal medicines.

Although the store was intended for poor patients who could not afford the high prices in most drugstores, customers in cars have also flocked to the place.

Contrary to the apprehensions of the staff members, the venture turned out to be sustainable even as it kept its mission of service.

During the first month, daily gross sales reached P500. After a month, the figure rose to P1,000 and by May 2002, it was P3,000. Today, the drugstore enjoys an average daily gross income of P20,000 with a peak of P45,000, said Oso.

Income

In 2003, it registered a net income of P120,000. Half of the money was retained as capital, while the rest was used for the center's scholarship program for 21 college students.

The stocks of medicines have also increased—from 200, when operations began, to 800, including branded drugs.

A full-time bookkeeper was hired to keep tabs of sales. An accountant inspected the financial records weekly.

The drugstore now has an air-conditioning unit and a computerized cash register that helps the staff monitor and project stock requirements.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo saw the initial success and promise of the drugstore. He then told Oso to "expand."

Now, the drugstore has branches in the capital town of Jordan in the island-province of Guimaras and in Barotac Nuevo town in Iloilo.

The Guimaras branch earns from P10,000 daily, to as high as P25,000, a far cry from the P300 when it opened last year. The Barotac Nuevo branch is run by the parish but is under close supervision by Jasac, especially in maintaining uniform prices.

Oso said another branch was being planned this year, either in Pototan town or in Passi City, both in Iloilo.

Jasac has inspired other dioceses to put up similar drugstores. Recently, the dioceses of San Carlos and Bacolod in Negros Occidental opened their own drugstores.

Social action directors from Mindanao have also visited Jasac to observe how the drugstore is being managed.

This year, Oso said the store would serve as wholesaler distributor of medicines as soon as it obtained a license from the Bureau of Food and Drugs. Medicine prices could be lowered further because purchases could be made in large volumes, he said.

Some groups have already made bulk purchases of medicines from the drugstore. Last December, the Sangguniang Kabataan of Iloilo City purchased P40,000 worth of medicines for its free medical mission.

The Philippine Army also made similar purchases for its medical missions, as well as politicians during the campaign period.

More personnel

From three in 2001, the number of staff personnel has increased to eight, including the three in the Guimaras branch.

Oso said providing jobs to these people was "already a profit for us."

He does not mind questions on the Church's involvement in a business. "Our perspective is clear. The drugstore is for service."

Alibagon, who was involved in pastoral work before volunteering to work in the drugstore, said she planned to stay on her present job even though she could apply in other companies. "I believe in our mission to serve those who need us," she said.

For poor customers like Merlie Susal, this is indeed a blessing.

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ADIVAY FEST

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A girl poses with a floral arrangement during the Adivay Festival in Benguet.

Luisita to declare 'dead season' as strike drags on

TARLAC CITY—It's going to be a "dead season" for Hacienda Luisita starting March 1.

It was the first to be declared here since the sugar plantations, now called the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) and the Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT), were acquired by the Cojuangco family in 1954.

Described as a management prerogative, the declaration of a dead season for Hacienda Luisita came in the wake of the long drawn deadlock between Luisita management and its striking agricultural and industrial workers.

The announcement of a likelihood of a declaration of a "dead season" was made in a press statement sent to the INQUIRER and confirmed by Romeo Ecraela, CAT corporate affairs manager.

This dead season in sugar farming, the statement said, is expected to eventually lead to the temporary cessation of operations of the CAT.

"Workers of CAT have already been advised to prepare for a provisional action from the management where they will be momentarily out of work due to failed negotiations in the current labor dispute that has paralyzed company operations since Nov. 6 last year," the statement said.

A major dent in the negotiations is the strikers' demand and the management's refusal to reinstate 73 farm workers from the United Luisita Worker's Union (Ulwu) and the 35 workers from the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu).

Since the start of the strike, about 500 workers who opted to report to work, have since stayed inside the company premises, the statement said.

But as talks between the management and the strikers dragged on, these workers "who have enjoyed their regular salaries and benefits plus overtime pay, will have to pack up until a clearer condition that would ensure sugarcane milling next season (October) is guaranteed," the statement said. *Jo Martinez-Clemente with a report from Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Conjoined twins die after birth

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Conjoined twins were born here on Wednesday but they died a few hours later.

The still unnamed infants, born to couple Danny and Edlyn Ataca of Barangay Putik early morning on Wednesday, were buried on the same day.

Health officials described the birth of the babies as one in a million.

Rodel Agbulos, city health officer, said the twins shared a single head and a brain.

He said they had a total of three eyes, four arms, four legs, two mouths and two noses.

"Chances are very rare that they will live longer," Agbulos said of the babies.

He said the babies had "multiple-organ defects," which could be related to the 24-year-old mother's pre-natal period.

Agbulos said the mother could have lacked vitamin supplements, food and medicine that resulted in the deformation of the babies.

He said it could also be possible that the mother attempted to abort her children during the early stages of conception.

Danny, who works in a junkyard, said his wife never attempted to abort the babies.

"Evangeline was very excited about our first baby ~~and she has never taken any medicine for~~ fear that it would harm the development of the baby, even if she was not already feeling well," he said. *Julie S. Alipala and Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Stop planting, farmers urged

ROXAS CITY—The National Irrigation Administration in Capiz has asked 1,271 rice farmers in the towns of Mambusao and Sigma to temporarily stop planting to allow the NIA to overhaul its dam and remove acid from the soil. Benedicto Denosta, provincial irrigation officer, said the repairs on the cracks found in the dam in Mambusao would start April 15 and end May 16. He said the farmers should also allow the soil to rest to increase production. The two other dams in Panit-an and Dumarao, including communal irrigation projects, will continue to operate during summer, said Denosta.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

NPA leader slain–Army

BUTUAN CITY—A ranking leader of the New People's Army in the Caraga region was seriously wounded following an encounter with government forces in a remote village in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur on Tuesday morning, according to Lt. Col. Johnny Macanas, commander of the Army's 29th Infantry Battalion. He identified the wounded NPA leader as Rogelio Magbanua alias Ka Onyot, secretary of the Front 21-B of the North Eastern Mindanao Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Magbanua's group operates in the borders of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. Macanas said soldiers were patrolling in Barangay San Juan when they chanced upon Magbanua's group of 20 guerrillas. "We are 100 percent sure that Magbanua was seriously wounded during that firefight," he told the INQUIRER.

Franklin M. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gunman robs cashier

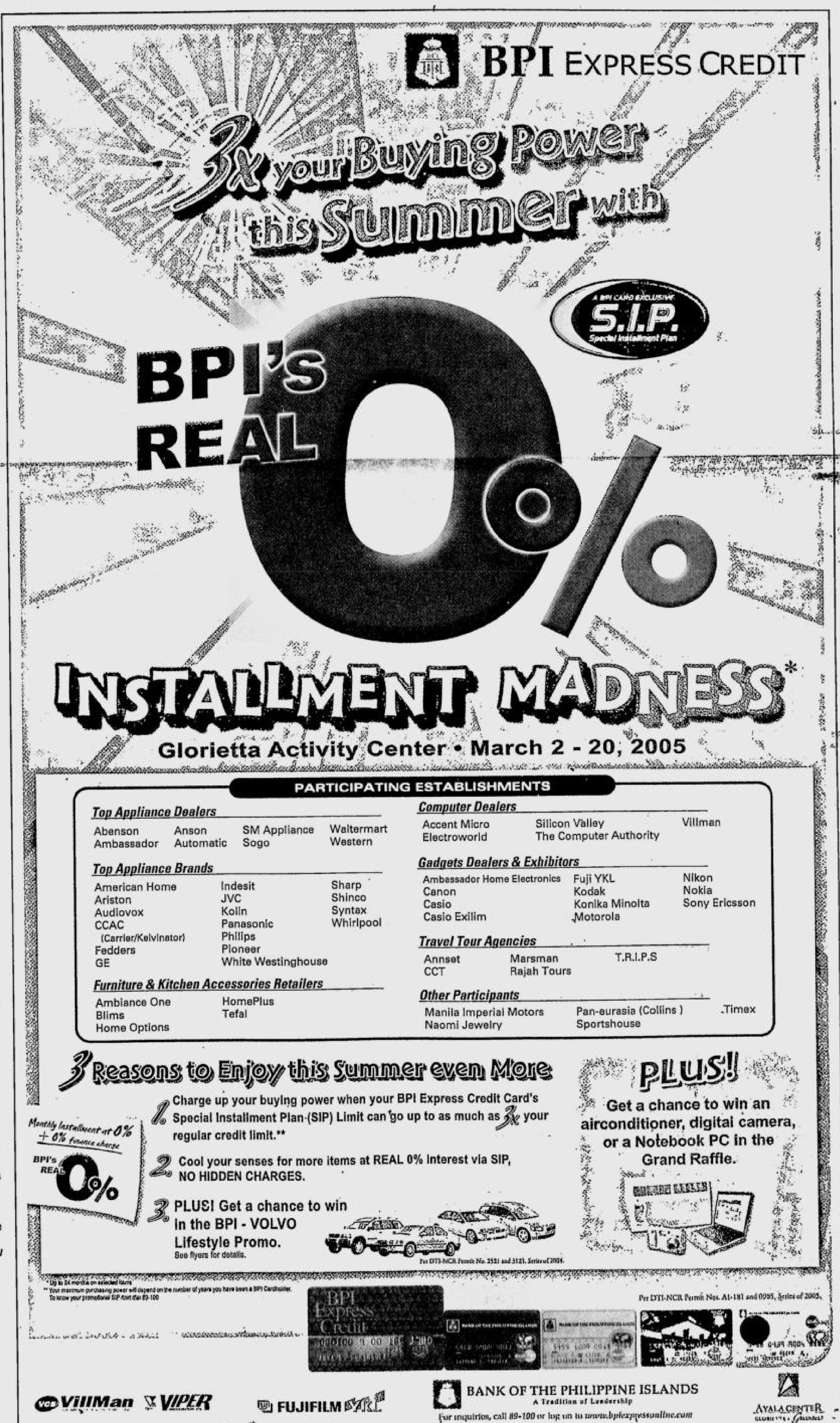
COTABATO CITY—A lone gunman robbed a mall cashier, who was being escorted by at least six security guards, of more than P200,000 in cash on Tuesday evening. Police investigators suspect that the incident could be an inside job. "We are not discounting the possibility of an inside job, that's why we are investigating the cashier and the guards," Chief Insp. Abdulwahid Pedtukasan, chief police investigator, said. Pedtukasan said that Virgie Allado-Acosta, head cashier of Sugni Super Plaza along SK Pendatun Avenue, was about to board a company vehicle and was being secured by the guards when the suspect, armed with a .38 cal. revolver, struck. One of the guards said they were not able to respond because the suspect had fired his gun and that "we thought he has with him some companions acting as lookouts."

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fisherman nabbed

BALANGA CITY—A fisherman here was arrested for stealing 560 meters of electrical wires at the Bay Park, a newly developed attraction in this capital city. Police said Pepito Alonzo, 60, was arrested while he was about to sell the wires to a junk shop in Barangay Sta. Rosa, Pilar, Bataan. Cesar Salaveria, barangay captain of Tortugas who reported the incident to the Balanga police, said the wires cost around P54,000. Residents said some fishermen who could no longer catch fish resort to stealing wires, steel bars and aluminum and sell these to junk shops.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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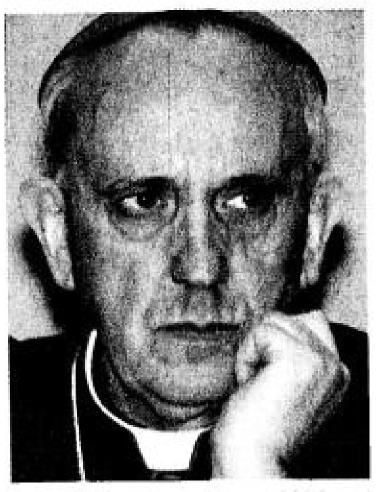
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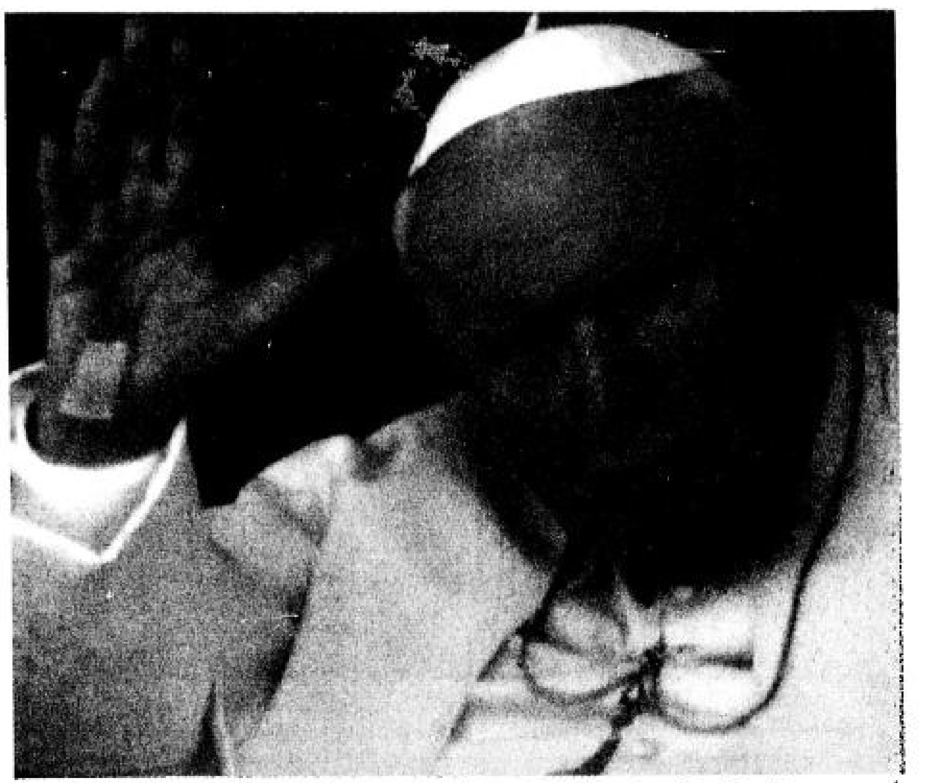
BLESSINGS from the window of Rome's Gemelli hospital where Pope John Paul II was hospitalized also for flu symptoms on Feb. 6 but discharged after only several days. PDI PHOTO

Pope breathing unaided after night of rest

From page A1

University of California, San Francisco Medical Center.

Direct health crisis

However, medical specialists held out little hope Friday the Pope would recover from the direst health crisis yet of the spiritual leader.

"The tracheotomy on the Pope was inevitable at this point. The relapse of the flu within a few days of his first hospitalization at the Gemelli is a sign that doesn't leave a great deal of hope," said Prof. Bruno Bergamasco, head of Neuroscience at the University of Turin.

The condition of the Pope is complicated by his Parkinson's disease.

"Parkinson's disease not only exposes, but predisposes the patient to infections of the primary airways: influenza in these patients is the primary cause of death," said Bergamasco.

The last sign

"The principal risk, in these cases, is a pulmonary edema (infection), a sort of drowning of the lungs. Which unfortunately is always the last sign."

Prof. Corrado Manni, the Pope's anesthesiologist during his life-saving surgery after he was shot in 1981, said his latest setback was "exertion after exertion on an organism which is undoubtedly weakened."

Written message

Though the operation on his throat will leave the Pope unable to speak for some time, a Vatican source said John Paul II had a notebook and ballpoint pen next to him on his bed, so he could continue to express his personal needs and directives about the Church.

OSCAR Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras

JOSEPH Ratzinger, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

The written messages will be passed on to the Pontiff's closest aides attending his bedside at the hospital, who include his personal secretary Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz.

The pages of the notebook concerning decisions about the Church are reserved for the attention of the Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano, who has taken over the Pope's day-to-day duties in leading the Church during his hospitalization, the source said.

Top cardinals gathered in the Vatican's Redemptoris Mater chapel early Friday to pray for the Pope, including John Paul II's secretary of state Angelo Sodano, and the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's top aide went to see the Pope immediately after the surgery on Thursday and said the Pontiff had waved to him.

"He was well and calm," Gianni Letta said. "When I came into the Gemelli I was very worried but now I am leaving very reassured," he told reporters.

Towering role

As Catholics around the world prayed, leaders who acknowledge the Polish Pope's towering role in the events of the 20th century—including helping the fall of communism in his native Poland—expressed their affection and apprehension. Pope John Paul is the third-longest serving pontiff in history, in office since 1978.

"The Holy Father is in our thoughts and prayers, and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to the service of his Church and all humanity," US President George W. Bush said.

While the Pope is alive he is the only leader of the Roman Catholic Church and its 1.1 billion followers. The bureaucracy can run without him but his aides have no major decision-making powers.

But the man known as the Church's great communicator will not be able to speak for some weeks, doctors said, and even then he may need a special device to help him form sounds.

'Very worrying'

"It's very worrying. He's just a human being even if he's an incredible individual," said hospital worker Tiziana on her way out of the clinic's chapel where she had prayed for the Pope.

The struggle to breathe is the latest health battle that John Paul has fought since he assumed the papal throne.

One of the most active Popes in history, he played a hand in the fall of communism, spoke out against the war in Iraq, fought for human rights and called for debt relief for poor countries.

But many have criticized him for his conservative views on contraception, gay marriage and women priests. *Reuters, AFP*

Cardinal Sin, Cory ask Pinoys to pray for Pope

By Nikko Dizon

INSTEAD of a message about Edsa, former Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin asked the Filipino people to once again pray for the recovery of Pope John Paul II, who was again rushed to the hospital with the flu and breathing difficulties.

He "expressed deep concern about the condition of the Holy Father. He is asking everybody to pray for our beloved pope. He hopes the Holy Father will recover soon. The cardinal is monitoring all news about the pope," Father Jun Sescon, Sin's private secretary, said in a message sent to the media through the Manila Archdiocese office late Thursday night.

Since his retirement as Manila Archbishop, Sin spends most of his time in his official residence in Villa San Miguel due also to his frail health.

The much loved cardinal was hospitalized twice last year, first for experiencing an irregular heartbeat while undergoing dialysis and when he had fever.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said in a separate statement that they are one with the world in prayer for the ailing Pope.

"As people of faith, we Filipinos believe the world and we are in God's hands. While guiding our use of personal freedom, He determines our destiny. He guides the Church according to His plan, part of which is having always a Pope as head. We join the rest of the world in praying for him now, even as we pray for him everyday especially in the Holy Mass, always hoping for renewed strength," CBCP president, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla said in a statement.

Former President Corazon Aquino yesterday joined other Roman Catholics in praying for a swift recovery of Pope John Paul II.

"I'm very sorry that His Holiness has been brought back to the hospital and I urge all Catholics as well as all peoples to pray for him," Ms Aquino said outside a Mass commemorating the "people power" revolution that ousted strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

"We are just so lucky to have him as Pope and he is such a holy man, at the same time so warm and he really loves the Filipino people."

Cell phone text messages urging people to pray for the Holy Father flashed around the country as news spread that the Pope was rushed to the hospital for the second time in a month. *With a report from AP*

Papal resignations rare, but not unprecedented

WITH Pope John Paul II's recent health crises, talk that he might consider resigning has intensified. Yet most popes have rejected that idea, even though the option remains available to them under church law.

The Rev. Thomas Reese, editor of the Jesuit magazine America and a Vatican expert, said popes worry that stepping down would set a dangerous precedent that could be misused by factions in the church to pressure a future pontiff to leave. No pope has resigned for centuries.

Resigning also clashes with the notion of a Pope's special role in guiding the church, said the Rev. Joseph Fessio, editor of Ignatius Press, a top US Catholic publisher. "He is a spiritual leader and a father in the faith and fathers don't resign," Fessio said.

John Paul has consistently brushed aside any speculation, often declaring he would carry out his mission until the end. His steadfastness is viewed by many as a powerful example of Roman Catholic teaching about the value of life, even in the face of intense suffering.

A symbol

"My sense is that John Paul II sees his own life in a way as a symbol and that being the leader of the church in both health and in sickness all the way down to the end is a witness to the Christian message he is trying to preach," said Daniel Thompson, a theology professor at Fordham University in New York.

No more than 10 popes are believed to have stepped down, though the historical evidence is not clear, Reese said.

The most famous is Pope Celestine V, who assumed the papacy in 1294 at age 85 and resigned five months later, saying he was not up to the task. He was later put under guard for fear he would become the rallying point for a schism.

Talk about John Paul eventually stepping down has been in the air for almost a decade, as the Pope has visibly weakened from Parkinson's disease and hip and knee ailments. His speech has been slurred for some years and because of difficulties to even stand, he now uses a wheeled throne pushed by aides. His health problems have not hindered the day-to-day operation of the Vatican, which is overseen by the many officials working there, although only the Pope can set major church policy, such as appointing bishops.

Debate inflame

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Holy See's No. 2 official, inflamed public debate on the issue during John Paul's previous hospitalization earlier this month when he responded to a reporter asking whether the Pope would ever consider stepping down.

While the cardinal expressed hope for the Pope to continue, he also said, "Let's leave that hypothesis up to the Pope's conscience."

"We must have great faith in the Pope. He knows what to do," Sodano said on Feb. 7.

Since then, several other cardinals have made similar comments, while others have expressed anger about the discussion. "It is bad taste to talk about it," said Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, head of the Congregation of Bishops.

Canon Law

If John Paul did decide to step down, the wording of canon law on resignation would pose potential problems, Reese said. The resignation must be "freely made and properly manifested," according to Church law, but it is not clear what would be done if the Pope becomes incapacitated.

The Vatican has declined to comment officially on whether John Paul has left written instructions in the event that he lapsed into a coma or another incapacitated state. Other recent popes are said to have done so. *AP*

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Unexpected 'guests' at Naia

By Nikko Dizon

HEAVY fog that made visibility a problem for aircraft caused nine flights all bound for Hong Kong to be diverted to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) yesterday morning.

"We were able to accommodate the flights and this did not cause any disruption in the operations at the Naia," Octavio Lina, Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) assistant general manager for operations, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

As of 6 p.m. yesterday, the Miaa operations office said only the 156 passengers of Cathay Pacific flight CX 889 remained at the Naia.

Flight CX 903 from Hong Kong, scheduled to arrive at 6:35 p.m. last night, was also delayed for almost an hour because of the flight diversions, according to the Miaa operations office.

Four other Cathay Pacific flights and Qantas Airways flight QF 083, carrying 205 passengers, had already left for Hong Kong by noon, Lina said.

Diversions

Because of the flight diversions, a total of 1,197 passengers had to spend several hours at the Naia until their flights were allowed to proceed to Hong Kong.

Apart from CX 889 and QF 083, other flights diverted to Manila were CX 138 with 146 passengers; CX 829 with 156 passengers; CX 748 with 267 passengers, and CX 260 with 257 passengers.

Cargo flights CX 051, CX 068 and Polar Air PO 285 were also among the flights diverted to Manila.

STRANDED passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport after nine flights bound for Hong Kong were diverted to the Philippines because of bad weather and zero visibility. ROGER MARGALLO

Cager's wife hits back

By Tarra V. Quismundo

STEADFAST in her revelation that she had been a battered wife, Marissa Fernandez, wife of basketball legend Ramon Fernandez, yesterday denied her husband's statements tracing her alleged marital shortcomings to psychological incapacity.

"Marissa had always been and remained a faithful, loving and devoted wife to Ramon, and mother to their four children," said Marissa's lawyer Howard Calleja.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER by his spokesperson Mel Amado, Calleja lashed back at the former cager who had called his client "psychologically incapable of performing her essential marital obligations."

On Valentine's Day, Marissa sought a temporary protection order from the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court, saying that Fernandez had abused her several times since they were married in 1977.

Fernandez, 51, had filed an annulment case against Marissa, 47, before the Cebu Regional Trial Court on Tuesday.

The former cager, now a commissioner of the United Regional Basketball League, had denied the accusation, adding that they had long been estranged.

"The filing of the annulment case is clearly an afterthought and a retaliatory action on the part of Ramon... There is no truth, as well, that he and his wife have long been estranged because he would still go back home whenever he is here in Manila, whenever he wants to," Calleja said.

He added that the report citing his client's "personality disorder" was baseless as his client had never met Frederick Boholst of the University of San Carlos psychology department, who signed the report.

Crash survivor recalls ordeal

CRUZ shows reporters his right leg in a cast. ROGER MARGALLO

By Nikko Dizon

AN OVERSEAS Filipino worker, who survived a plane crash in the United Arab Emirates a year ago, arrived in Manila yesterday afternoon, his body bearing the reminders of a harrowing ordeal, but grateful to be alive.

"It was my prayers and my desire to see my son that saved me," George Cruz told reporters upon his arrival from Dubai aboard Emirates Airlines flight EK 332.

His wife, Maritess, looked on, smiling as she held his wheelchair. She said that their son, now one year and eight months old, was their "miracle baby."

The boy was only five months old when the tragedy happened.

Cruz, a 34-year-old computer technician, was among the three survivors of the Kish Airlines Fokker 50 crash on Feb. 10 last year in Dubai.

Forty-six people, including three Filipinos—Francisco Pabarillos, Danilo Manalese and Engelbert Lingal—died in the crash.

The twin-engine turbo prop plane took off from Kish Island in Iran and crashed in Dubai as it prepared to land at the Sharjah airport.

Cruz said he and his fellow Filipinos were on their way to Dubai to claim their work visas.

Cruz lay in a coma for six days and had spent almost a year in a hospital.

He said the airlines gave him and Maritess a monthly allowance of 1,500 dirhams for a year while he was in hospital.

The Philippine Embassy in Dubai also extended help to him and his family, Cruz said.

3 suspected illegal recruiters nabbed

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE GOVERNMENT scored anew in the fight against illegal recruitment with the arrest of three people accused of collecting payments for nonexistent foreign jobs.

The three suspects, of Cross Ocean Marine Services Inc., were nabbed in a recent entrapment operation of the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (Pairtf) under Reynaldo Jaylo.

They were identified as Rommel Jallorina, operations manager, his uncle Leopoldo Jallorina, and staff member Aurora Serapio.

According to Pairtf, the suspects were allegedly able to collect around P10.6 million from 207 job applicants. The suspects allegedly collected an average of P53,000 from each applicant, with some paying as much as P95,000.

One of the applicants, Greg Pacificar, said the management of Cross Ocean promised him and the other applicants jobs as crew members of ships sailing around Europe. Pacificar applied for a job as head waiter last year and was made to pay around $600.

He initially paid $150 for the medical examination. Later, he was asked for $100 supposedly as initial payment for the processing of his application. Pacificar was charged another $350 for air fare and visa.

Pacificar said Cross Ocean promised him he would be able to leave on Dec. 29, 2004. When he and the other applicants were not able to leave, they confronted the officials of Cross Ocean, who told them they would leave the first week of January. But the company once again failed to make good on its promise. Four other groups scheduled to leave after Pacificar's group were also unable to leave.

Claiming they were fed up with Cross Ocean's promises, the applicants decided to seek Pairtf's help.

Dance not in contract, says Rama

By Tina G. Santos

TALENT manager Annabelle Rama has asked the Quezon City Regional Court to cite Rochelle Quiambao for contempt of court for doing a dance number during the Ginebra San Miguel-Talk 'N Text basketball game on Feb. 8.

Rama claimed her former talent's performance during the half-time intermission of the game at the Araneta Coliseum violated the "management contract" between her and the defendant since their cases were still pending in court.

Earlier, Quiambao and her businesswoman mother, Shirley, filed a multimillion damage suit for breach of contract against Rama. The Quiambaos claimed Rama did not follow the terms of their agreement when the latter suddenly rescinded her contract as Rochelle's talent manager.

Rama responded by filing estafa charges against the Quiambaos for allegedly failing to pay for pieces of jewelry they got from her. In her latest petition, Rama asked the court to order the younger Quiambao to explain why she should not be held in contempt. Rama said photos of the dance number were even published in the tabloids. But Shirley said Rama had long dropped Rochelle as a talent.

How could suspects plan bombings in jail?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

HOW COULD four suspected terrorists in police custody since Dec. 14 have planned and funded the Valentine's Day bombings in the cities of Makati, Davao and General Santos?

The four—Indonesians Mohammad Nasir Hamid and Mohammed Usop Karim Faiz and Malaysian Ted Yolanda, all alleged members of the international terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah, and Muhajir dela Merced, a Muslim convert and member of the Abu Sayyaf—were presented to reporters in Camp Crame Thursday.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, director of the National Police intelligence group, said the four suspects "did the planning and brought the fund" for the bombings on Feb. 14.

Chief Superintendent Rafanan, please explain to me, since I'm quite dense, how the four were able to plan the Valentine's Day bombings inside their tightly-guarded cells in Camp Crame.

Were they allowed to use cellular phones that they used in communicating with their cohorts outside?

Were they allowed to receive visitors to whom they passed on their plans and gave money?

If the answer is in the positive, then the Camp Crame guards were sleeping—again.

A positive answer—that they were allowed to use cellular phones and receive visitors—is not surprising. The police have admitted that Moro leader Nur Misuari, in detention at the well-guarded police camp in Laguna, ordered the attacks on government troops that set off the new skirmishes in Mindanao. How did Nur communicate with his men in the field? Through his cellular phone!

Now, OK, the four made the plan and had the funds to bomb some areas in the country before they were arrested and detained on Dec. 14. If that is so, then why wasn't the PNP able to prevent the bombings since it already had the information provided by the four suspects?

* * *

I nearly fell off my chair at the breakfast table when I read that part in the INQUIRER banner story: "When asked at the press conference about the four men's actual participation in the Feb. 14 bombings, Rafanan said police were still 'in the process of checking or verifying their possible involvement.'"

On the one hand, Rafanan said, the four suspected terrorists "did the planning and brought the fund" for the Valentine's Day bombing.

And, yet, on the other hand, he said the police were still "in the process of checking or verifying (the suspects') possible involvement."

Ano ba talaga, Kuya? Nililito mo naman kami!

* * *

The contenders for the post of PNP chief have been narrowed down to only two—Deputy Director General (three stars) Ricardo F. de Leon and Director (two stars) Arturo Lomibao.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is having a very hard time choosing between the two to replace Edgar Aglipay, who retires on March 14.

"*Walang itulak-kabigin sa dalawa* (It's hard to choose between the two)," said a subordinate.

Both De Leon and Lomibao are excellent leaders. Both have proved their worth as young officers.

De Leon is an intellectual who has written several police books and manuals. His latest book is titled "Community Policing, Pathway to Good Governance."

Lomibao, while still a lieutenant of the defunct Philippine Constabulary, was credited with the capture of the elusive Kumander Dante, then the chieftain of the New People's Army.

Both are highly recommended by Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos. De Leon and Lomibao are both from Pangasinan.

Help needed for 3 boys

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THREE young boys are waging a battle against a disease called acute lymphocytic leukemia.

Carlo Arcangeles, Darwin Caluntad and Aries Miravalles were diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia at the Philippine General Hospital.

"We were staying in the same ward when our kids were diagnosed," Lucia, Darwin's mother, told the INQUIRER.

Now, the boys visit the PGH once a month to undergo chemotherapy.

But apart from having sons with the same illness, their families also share the same dilemma: They do not know where to get the amount for their boys' monthly treatment.

Carlo needs six more chemotherapy sessions, just like Darwin who would also have to undergo cobalt therapy. Aries has to go through chemo sessions and bone marrow treatment later.

Interested donors may reach Carlo Arcangeles at C-66 C.P. Garcia Street, Tondo.

Or you may call his mother, Carmela, at 0920-2952220.

To those who would like to help Darwin Caluntad, call 770-5021 or cell phone no. 0920-2574817.

Donations could also be sent to BPI account no. 5577530020262885 under Angelita Caluntad's name.

Donors could reach the Miravalles family through cell phone no. 0919-4796496.

Or donations could be sent to the account of Jocelyn Miravalles at the Philippine National Bank (account number 2885414527).

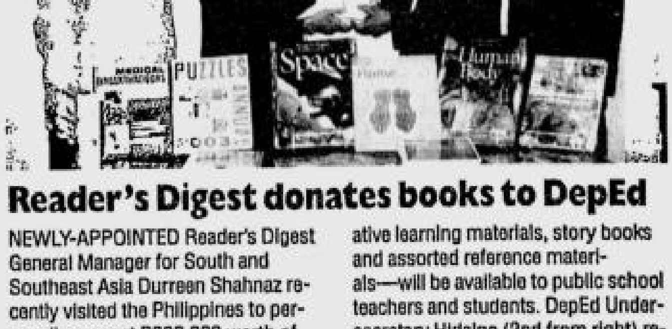
METROBRIEFS

Guard faces raps

FRUSTRATED murder charges have been filed against a security guard, who was allegedly one of the two suspects who shot and injured a labor arbiter in a foiled ambush last month in Quezon City. Charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office was Manuel Vicio, a security guard of the Protective Maximum Security Agency Inc. Complainant Judge Clarito Dimaala, a judge at the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) and a resident of Sto. Niño Street, Villa España Subdivision, Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City, had identified the respondent through a picture in his office files. Dimaala had just come out of his office and was about to board his car parked a few meters from the NLRC office on Jan. 8 when two armed suspects suddenly appeared. The two suspects shot the victim at close range. Dimaala tried to wrestle the gun from one of the suspects but it went off, hitting him in the abdomen. The victim managed to crawl under his car for cover, but the gunman was still able to fire several shots at him. The suspects fled while the victim was immediately rushed to the National Orthopedic Hospital. *Tina G. Santos*

Search extended

THE SEARCH for the Ten Outstanding Public Transport Drivers (TOPTDA) has been extended until Feb. 28 in response to a request from transport groups who needed more time to complete the requirements to join the search. The TOPTDA aims to promote a culture of safety, uplift the image of public transport drivers and recognize their achievements and contributions to society. It is organized by Caltex (Philippines) Inc. in cooperation with the Department of Energy and the Safety Organization of the Philippines, as well as other government partners and various public transport associations in Metro Manila. The 10 winners will receive P100,000 each in cash and accident insurance, while the 10 finalists will receive P10,000 each. The search is open to all public bus, jeepney and metered taxi drivers in Metro Manila who have clean records at the MMDA, LTO, PNP and NBI.



Reader's Digest donates books to DepEd

NEWLY-APPOINTED Reader's Digest General Manager for South and Southeast Asia Durreen Shahnaz recently visited the Philippines to personally present P800,000 worth of Reader's Digest books to DepEd Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo for the department's Library Hub Project. The books—composed of dictionaries, medical books, children's books, creative learning materials, story books and assorted reference materials—will be available to public school teachers and students. DepEd Undersecretary Hidalgo (2nd from right) receives the donation from Shahnaz. With them are Lirio Sandoval (right) and Fabio Enriquez, of A-Z Direct Marketing, exclusive distributor of Reader's Digest in the Philippines.

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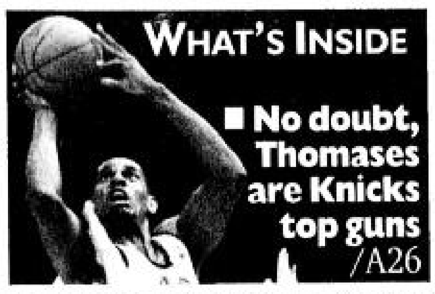

- No doubt, Thomases are Knicks top guns /A26

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Jenny fires 66, leads Hawaii LPGA tourney

JENNIFER Rosales waves to the gallery after her birdie on the 18th hole during the first round of the LPGA SBS Open in Kahuku, Hawaii. AP

KAHUKU, Hawaii—**Jennifer Rosales shot a 6-under-par 66 for a two-stroke lead after the first round of the LPGA Tour's season-opening SBS Open, and 15-year-old Hawaiian darling Michelle Wie is four shots back after a 70.**

Angela Stanford, Lorena Ochoa, Heather Bowie and Sung Ah Yim trail by two strokes after opening 68s.

Wie lives a bit more than an hour away from the Palmer Course at Turtle Bay on Oahu's North Shore, but Rosales seemed to have the home-course advantage.

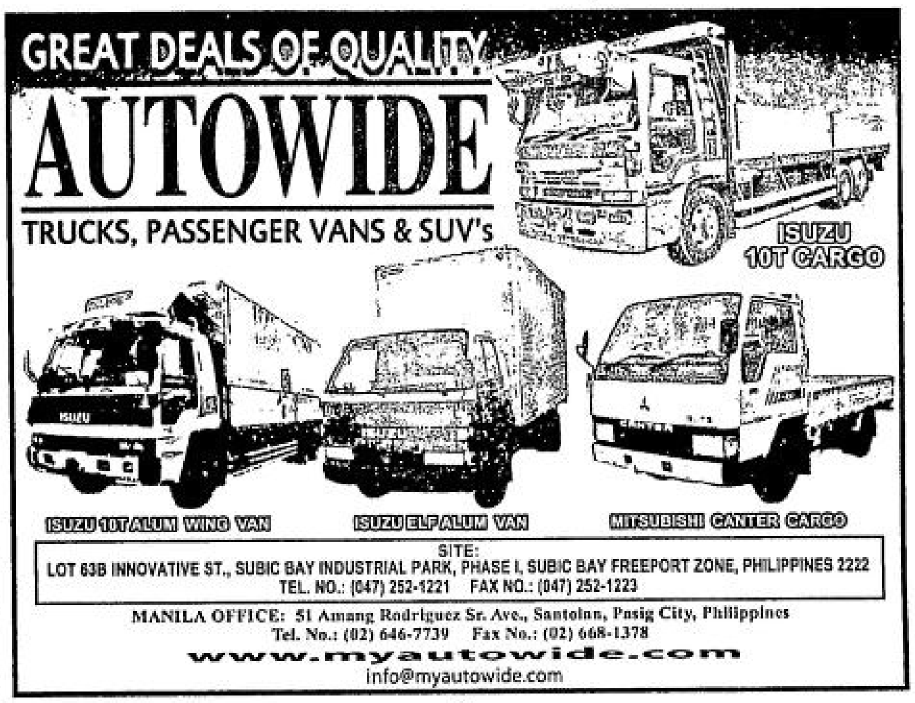
The playing conditions reminded Rosales of the course he grew up playing in her native Philippines.

"I grew up on Bermudas, so I kind of know the feeling of the greens," Rosales said. "The course I play back home has the same winds. It's not by the beach, but it's the same."

The 26-year-old Rosales, whose first Tour win came at last year's Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, started on the 10th hole and opened with two pars before making birdie on four of the next five holes and making the turn at 32.

"I felt good when I woke up this morning," she

JENNY/ A26



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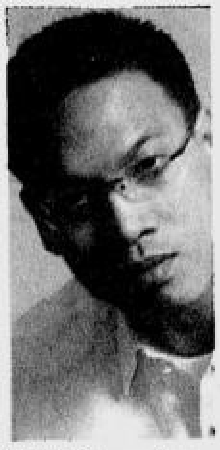
Eala says judge flip-flopped; seeks CA help


EALA: Grave abuse

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association has asked the Court of Appeals to nullify a Quezon City court injunction stopping it from suspending Talk 'N Text cager Asi Taulava.

In a 65-page petition, PBA commissioner Noli Eala and the PBA board of governors asked the appellate court to void Judge Rogelio Pizarro's injunction, claiming that the judge flip-flopped in the case.

The PBA noted that Pizarro denied last November Taulava's petition for an injunction but he reversed himself last month and allowed Taulava to play in the league.

"The PBA believes that the lower court's flip-flopping is highly irregular, and that it committed grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction," the PBA said.

"As matters now stand, the issuance of the writ of preliminary injunction by the lower court has resulted in a greater damage, not only to the PBA, but to all its followers and fans as well," it added.

The PBA asked the appellate court to issue an injunction stopping Pizarro from implementing his order allowing Taulava to play.

The PBA noted that the Department of Justice's findings that Taulava had faked his Filipino citizenship had initially convinced the lower court that he "came to court with unclean hands and therefore is not entitled to injunctive relief."

But in his Jan. 26 order, Pizarro did not explain whether Taulava had met the requisites for the granting of an injunction, the PBA said.

It added that he also did not say that Taulava's suspension was arbitrary or against the rules.

"Its only explanation . . . was that if it denied the injunction, it was afraid that it would in effect dispose of the main case without trial because there would be a foretelling of what to expect in the final verdict of the case," the PBA said.

"Most important of all, Taulava was granted [an injunction] despite his failure to dispute any of the findings of misrepresentation or irregularities in his documents," it added.

The PBA also disputed Taulava's claim that he was denied due process.

"In all the proceedings in the Senate, the DOJ, and the PBA where he was assisted by counsel and had every opportunity to refute the findings which he believed were adverse to him, and even before the lower court, Taulava has remained silent and refused to refute such findings of misrepresentation or irregularities on his part," the PBA said.

19TH PAL INTERCLUB

Navy, Apo show way; Luisitans open bid

By Musong R. Castillo

MURCIA, Negros Occidental—Philippine Navy and Apo Golf took slim leads in two lower divisions on a hot and humid Friday that served as fitting aperitif to the main Philippine Airlines Interclub seniors battle starting today at Binitin here.

Arthur Ampaya scored 44 and Teodoro Runes contributed 41 to backstop Navy's frontrunning 203 in the Sportswriters Division at Marapara in Bacolod.

Pete Lopez fired a six-over 76 worth 48 points to lead Club Intramuros to a second-running 201 tally, four ahead of Ang Tay Golf, which drew 45 points from Roger Tam.

Nick Olarte totaled 46 points after a 78 to pace Apo Golf to a 204 total and a two-point lead over US-based Maharlika in the Friendship Division.

Bert dela Paz and Paul Nisperos tallied 40 each for Maharlika.

Meanwhile, Luisita—its nucleus already a virtual all-star team in itself—begins its chase for an unprecedented sixth straight title today, one which a game Canlubang side and two other crack teams aim to stop.

But Luisita's Alex Montelibano, a long-time fixture of this tournament regarded as the country's unofficial team championship, does not believe in the hype that the Luisitans are invincible.

"When you look at us by name, yes, I think you can say that we are a strong team," said Montelibano, who wears a special waist brace for a pinched nerve in his back that numbs his legs after long walks.

"But this is golf, and senior level at that. There are so many things my body feels which it shouldn't and we should consider that."

Gaston's injury

Francis Gaston, he added, has just recovered from a neck injury and the Luisitans are praying that it does not re-occur during the tournament. King Sumulong also complained of a sore shoulder in practice Thursday.

Canlubang is installed as the biggest threat after Tommy Manotoc joined the team together with debuting senior and former professional Rolly Viray.

Montelibano believes that Alabang and Southwoods also have solid shots at thwarting the Luisitans.

No sure thing

"This is golf, there is no such thing as a sure thing," Montelibano said.

Aguinaldo stood in fourth place in the Sportswriters Division with 193 following Richie Peralta's 42, Orly de los Santos's 40, Anselmo Rodriguez's 39, Cesar Vinluan's 37 and Leo Valderama's 35.

After Tam, Don Teves (41), Joel Llosa (40), Rene Bonilla (38) and Edgar Teves (33) counted for the third-placed Ang Tay.

A 40 from Soc Nam Lee, a 39 from Benjamin del Rosario, 38s from Sergio Lim and Jose Nepomuceno, and a 37 from Danilo Olarosa gave Eagle Ridge 192 points for fifth place.

Guinhalaran is in sixth spot with 191 built around the 41 of Osamu Nokamura, followed by Paoay Golf, which drew 38s from Oscar Arellano and Nestor Garcia, with 181.

Apo got 45 points from Yang Byoung-ho, a 42 from Richmond Alejo, a 37 from Rene Madrazo and a 34 from Edwin Villarino.

Vicente Go was good enough for a 43 to pace Alta Vista to third spot in Friendship play with 192. Sergio Gonzales chipped in 42 and Benjamin Yu 40. Bobby Barria's 38 and Eduardo Sanchez' 29 were Alta Vista's other scorers.

Local club Victorias was in fourth after a 180 built around Abelardo Bantug's 44, while the Guam Senior Golf Association leaned on Jess Amenas' 46 to be in fourth with 174.

Airbus, GE Aircraft Engines, Boeing, Mastercard International, Globe Platinum, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean International and People Asia are the major sponsors of the annual tournament.

Other backers of the event are Radio Mindanao Network, Premier Wine & Spirits, Fortune Tobacco, and 96.3 WRock while RJ Broadcasting Network, INQ7.net, Asia Brewery, Park Hotel, and Legend Hotel are corporate sponsors.

ANGEL Lazaro, 87-year-old mainstay of Veterans Golf Club, looks for a way back into the fairway after hitting into the deep rough on hole No. 2 of the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in Binitin. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Shut up, angry Morales fires back at Pacquiao

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

PACQUIAO'S ILLUSIONS: Morales in training

ERIK Morales yesterday lost his cool after US media, awed at Manny Pacquiao's blinding speed in the gym, wondered how the Mexican icon would be able to handle the Filipino firebrand who has vowed to "come out like a gun."

Miffed, Morales advised Pacquiao to keep his mouth in check and let their fists do the talking on March 19 when they clash at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

"*Pacquiao es libre de hacer las declaraciones que crea convenientes... Yo sólo me limitaré a realizar mi trabajo* (Pacquiao is free to make the declarations in his illusions... I will only do my work)," said Morales, who indicated it is far easier to talk than walk the talk.

"I will put in his mouth all his words come fight night," Morales added, confident in his training conducted at the Otomi Mountains in Mexico located 3,500 meters above sea level.

Supervised by his father and mentor, Jose "Olivaritos" Morales, the battle-scarred Mexican popularly known as El Terible bared that he was in the toughest stage of his back-breaking preparation. Morales runs 12 kilometers in the morning (in approximately one hour and five minutes), and continues his training in the afternoon at a gymnasium where he is assisted by southpaw sparmates who try to mimic Pacquiao's fierce fighting style.

Morales had earlier belittled Pacquiao as a one-dimensional fighter who could not adapt to situations.

An underdog at the betting lines in Las Vegas, Morales however sought an interview with Mexican media to unleash his most torrid verbal assault after he was portrayed as Pacquiao's next victim who will suffer the same fate as Marco Antonio Barrera and Juan Manuel Marquez.

Meanwhile, old foe Nedal Hussein is expected to spar with Pacquiao soon to give the Filipino southpaw variety in his gym work.

Reports coming out of the Wild Card Gym indicate there has been a short supply of partners for Pacquiao after trainer Freddie Roach had to sideline a number of sparmates for them to recuperate.

18 sharpshooters make final SEA Games tryouts

EIGHTEEN shooters—nine in shotgun events, seven in rifle and two in pistol categories—have so far made the criteria for the final tryouts for slots in the national shooting team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

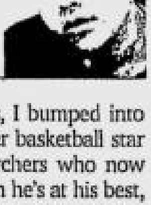
Newly appointed Philippine Sports Commission commissioner and Philippine National Shooting Association executive vice president Joey Mundo announced this yesterday during the SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant on Padre Faura.

Heading the list are Athens Olympian Jethro Dionisio in trap, veteran Carolino Gonzales in free pistol and air pistol, Tac Padilla in rapid fire pistol and Emerito Con-

18 SHARPSHOOTERS/ A26

Bacolod's newest hit cuisine

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

BACOLOD—This city is known for its world-famed, Spanish-influenced cuisine. Talk of good food, you got it here, almost anywhere, everywhere.

Bitay Lacson's Garden Café is one.

Joe Cajili's Chicken House is another.

Both are all-time favorites among city folk—Garden Café for its exquisite, heritage-rich delicacies laid down from generation to generation, and Chicken House for its succulent, wood-fired native chicken embellished by the exotic *sinamak* (that locally brewed vinegar meticulously garnished with herbs and spices).

But there's one, which opened just very recently, that's been packing them in. It's called Silay Food Park, situated along San Agustin Street, corner 21st Street not far from Bar 21.

Participants in the ongoing PAL Interclub Golf Championship who have tried out Silay Food Park have but one resolve: We will be back.

Silay Food Park has its home base in nearby Silay City. Owners have linked up with new investors to put up a franchise here in answer to a strong clamor among city folk, who don't need to motor to Silay City anymore when their palates start to crave for Silay Food Park's mouth-watering array of home cooked dishes. Its grilled chicken alone is incomparable.

But Silay Food Park has one come-on that's driving the city folk and Pal Interclub participants wild the past few days. It's this: Silay Food Park customers can also buy fish at the famous Pala-Pala and have them cooked at Silay Food Park. Meaning, visitors and residents alike can hit two birds with one stone: Have a feel of Pala-Pala adventure and a taste of Silay Food Park's much sought-after home cooking.

I just did that Thursday night. The experience was a thrill. I can't wait to go back to Silay Food Park soon.

Burp!

***

Hanging around at the clubhouse of the NOGCC sniffing for news, I bumped into Carlo Gamban, the former basketball star of the La Salle Green Archers who now plays mean golf that when he's at his best, Richie Garcia and Iggy Clavecilla, both national caliber in their heyday, will have a hard time beating him.

But do you know what Carlo Gamban is today? Still the mayor of Silay City, serving his second term.

"Howdy? Nice to see you again," Carlo said, giving me that usual bear hug. "But even if I don't see you that much anymore, I still see your face in the papers *naman* very regularly."

Didn't I tell you the PAL Interclub is a forum to renew ties with friends?

Carlo Gamban has been a friend for two decades now. A gentleman of the first order.

Between friends, distance and time are no obstacles. A friend is a friend is a friend is a friend—today, tomorrow, forever.

Carlo Gamban does not know that I know this facet in his political life that has endeared him to his constituents: He has virtually eliminated the garbage problem in his city. How? By buying the garbage of every resident of Silay City.

Can Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila please do that, too?

Talk of cleanliness, Silay City is it. Spic and span.

Here's a glass to you, Carlo.

***

Everybody's saying the thrill this year in the PAL Seniors Interclub is in the Founders Division. Reason: At least 10 teams here like Valley, Riviera, Manila Golf, Villamor, Orchard and Wack Wack are virtually even in strength. In the Championship Division, practically only three are fighting for the crown: Luisita, Alabang and Canlubang. Interesting, huh?

***

FASTBREAK. May Uy and her dear friend Sol Juvida gave Lou Pizarro and Vicky Farinas the surprise of their lives yesterday. The lunch they had at the Bacolod farm of famous organic farming advocate Batchoy Henares was an eye-opener: The from-garden-to-table lettuce salad served by Batchoy was a smash hit to Lou and Vicky mainly because it's the cleanest food they had eaten in years. Over the years, health buffs have learned to love Batchoy Henares' farm produce because they are chemical-free. In fact, Sol Juvida has gone a step further in giving tribute to Batchoy's pioneering efforts at removing chemical out of our soil through organic farming: Nominate Batchoy Henares for the Ramon Magsaysay Awards for innovative technology in agriculture. Approved without thinking!

INQBOX
Question of the Week
What are your memories of EDSA/People Power 1?
Win this "Inquirer mug
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! 0
Key in: inquirer box name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
"Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Django, Gabica barge into semis

By Marlon Bernardino, *Contributor*

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante and Antonio "Gaga" Gabica took different routes to break into the semifinals of the Hope P1 million All-Filipino Billiards Open Thursday night at the LS2 Studio 13 in Quezon City.

The Germany-based Bustamante went uphill to nip reigning world champion Alex Pagulayan, 9-8, while Gabica kept his smashing form with a 9-4 rout of Lee Vann Corteza in the winner's bracket.

Their victories shoved Bustamante and Gabica into tonight's semifinals, where they will just be waiting for their opponents.

"*Suwerte lang talaga, nakapasok ako ng tatlong* golden break *at nagka-tatlong* scratch *naman si* Alex (It was pure luck, I holed in three golden breaks while Alex had three scratches)," said the 41-year-old Bustamante. He will meet the winner between Davaoeños Corteza and Gandy Valle, who were scheduled to play Friday night in the loser's bracket.

After Bustamante lost the lag, the Cabagan, Isabela-born Pagulayan took a 2-0 lead. Bustamante won the third rack, but Pagulayan took the next two games, capped by an ace in the fifth frame, to move up 4-1.

BUSTAMANTE: Luck's on his side this time against Alex Pagulayan. AP

Bustamante quickly answered with his own ace in the sixth frame to the delight of the gallery, 4-2.

Pagulayan won the seventh rack and appeared ready to control the match, 5-2, but Bustamante racked up three consecutive winners, capped by a golden break in the 10th frame to catch up, 5-5.

It was nip and tuck from thereon, with both sides displaying masterful form.

With the score tied at 7-all, Pagulayan suffered another scratch and Bustamante cleared out, 8-7.

Bustamante opted for safety on the No. 8 ball in the 16th frame but this gave Pagulayan a clear 7-9 combo to tie the game, 8-8.

Pagulayan was in great position to clinch it but he scratched for the third time breaking in the deciding frame.

In a rare, commendable move, Pagulayan waved the white flag as Bustamante positioned the cue ball for a "gimme" 2-9 combo.

Gabica earlier secured the first semifinal slot by routing Corteza, 9-4.

Bustamante and Gabica were assured of at least P50,000 prize money in the tournament sponsored by Hope the luxury cigarette, Talk 'N Text, More, Mark, Champion and staged under the leadership of Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines president Emersto Fajardo in partnership with Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and Jemah Television head Mark Roces.

The champion will pocket P500,000.

Jainul, Salip capture Zambo Milo net crowns

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Khadi Jainul whitewashed Dupok Salip, 6-0, 6-0, and Jimbo Salip edged Jabar Patarasa, 6-0, 5-7, 10-4, to top their respective categories in the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop at the Zamboanga City Lawn Tennis Association clay courts here recently.

Jainul captured the unisex 10-under title, while Salip bagged the boys' 14-under trophy as the two shared the limelight with fellow champions Efren Macasinag in the boys' 16-under, Ruel Damian in the boys' 18-under, and Lani Enriquez in the girls' 14-under divisions.

Nararanasan mo ba ang mga ito:

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday February 26, 2005

TUESDAY
7:30 PM and 10:00 PM

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
7:00 PM and 10:00 PM

American Idol

SPECIAL SCHEDULE THIS WEEK!

ABC iba tayo

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek		Reach Out		Y Speak		Search for the Dance Idols		TV Patrol	Magandang Gabi Bayan	[illegible]	Star Cinema Presents			Home Along The Airport		Kontrobersyal		Sports Unlimited
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision			GSIS Member's Hour		Yan Ang Pinoy		God & Glory In Greece		Search For The 1st Tanduay Billiards Player		To Be Announced			Business & Leisure		
ABC 5	Smart TV	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown		Loren		Diretsahan		Viva Box Office				Sing Galing		Maverick & Ariel	ABC Cinema		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar	Bitoy's Funniest Videos			Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Tales Of Horror	
RPN 9			Biyaheng Langit	JR News	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		7 Days		JAG		2002 Laureus Sports Award				Money Talks	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Japan Video Topic		Home Shopping Network		Amerika Atbp.		V League				Blag		In This Corner		Ugnayang Pambansa	
Solar	Tough Enough	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		Wow		Slamball		UFC Recall				Thunder Box	
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	1, 2, 3	Snick, Unfabulous (Now All Grown Up My Dad The Rock Star Drake & Josh				SpongeBob SquarePants Weekend		Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys		
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Romantikus	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Club MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Dateline		The Today Show		Saturday Night Live		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For A Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Elimidate	Change of Heart
Cinema One	Alfredo Lim: Batas ng Maynila				Lisiang				My Movie				$3 Worry (Premiere)				Ang Tisor Kong Pag		
Studio 23								Sports TV	Game Plan	7th Heaven	Boston Public	Gilmore Girls	The Bachelor (8:40PM)		Studio 23 Present				Real Deal
AXN			The President's Man: Ground 0				Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	The Right Stuff II	Rated X	Energon AXN Xtreme	The Contender			Alias (Season III)		Spider-Man			
Star World	Action Man	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Adventure Inc		Roswell		Dark Angel		TNA Wrestling/ One Night Only/ Rod Stewart In Concert		Killers In The Water		Dog The Bounter	Cops	The Kumars At No. 42	Goodness Gracious Me
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Global Office	World News	Design 360	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Big Bite Night				Snake Paradise		Creature Feature				Saturday Unlimited				Big Bite Night			
Solar Sports		IBF China Super Grand Prix WD		ATP Open 13 2005 Sfinals	Sounds of the Finals			GWS ep 8-2005	Greatest Classics				NBA TV Daily	NBA Game Charlotte @ New Jersey					NBA Action
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	Brini Maxwell Show	Royalty A-Z		Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	
HBO		Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom				Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade					Striking Distance (7:20 PM)			Freddy vs. Jason			City Slickers: The Legend Of Curly's Gold		
Star Movies			Sleeping With The Enemy				Far From Heaven			Bringing Down The House				Down With Love			Swordfish (10:45PM)		
Cartoon Network		The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Sasal Kala	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Atomic Betty	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Xiaolin Showdown	Barbie As The Princess & The Pauper				Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Harvey Birdman (11:15PM)	Justice League
ESPN	Eng. Premier League Preview	Big East Conf.: Notre Dame vs. Connecticut				Big 12 Conf.: Kansas vs Oklahoma				Big 12 Conf.: Texas vs. Texas Tech				NBA Game Pistons @ L.A. Lakers			World Pool League '04 Warsaw, Poland		
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina's Secret Life	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Viva S Club	Martin Mystery/ That's So Raven/Dave The Barbarian/Phil Of The Future				Mr Bean	Aladdin			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Treasure Planet	
Cinemax	Owning Mahowny			Borderline (4:15 PM)			Green Dragon (5:45 PM)				Detonator			Ironwood					Maverick (11:20PM)
Hallmark Channel		Just Desserts				A Carol Christmas				She's Too Young				Plainsong			Fabio Montale II (10:35PM)		
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Ultimate Cars	Building The Ultimate	Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides		The New Detectives		Extreme Discovery	
MTV Philippines			Carmen & Dave	Whatever Things	Meio MTV Asia Kelly Clarkson	MTV Urban Beats	Globally Dismissed	Room Raiders	Taildaters	One Bad Trip	MTV Urban Beats	MTV Fashionista	MTV Talk	MTV Private Party				Backstage Pass: Franz Ferdinand	Backstage Pass: Yeah Yeah Yeahs
Sports Plus	Outback Steakhouse Pro-AM Day1					Italia Series A				Bikini Destination	Acc Basketball Wake Forest @ Duke					World Golf C'ships Accenture Match Day3			
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3:15 PM)	G.K. Chesterton	My Little Angels	The Donut Man	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Black And Roman Catholic	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	The Church And Culture Today	Life on The Rock Encore	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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SATURDAY
CAVALIERS VS Pacers
9:00 AM | SOLAR SPORTS
SUNDAY
INDIANA PACERS @ NEW YORK KNICKS
8:30 AM | SOLAR SPORTS
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES @ SAN ANTONIO SPURS
10:00 AM | RPN
ORLANDO MAGIC @ MIAMI HEAT
12:00 NN | SOLAR SPORTS*
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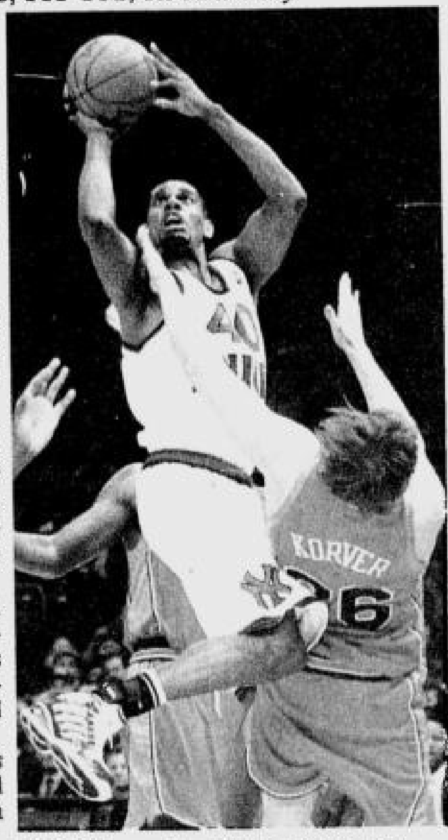
Thomases leave little doubt they're Knicks top guns

NEW YORK—Kurt Thomas celebrated the passing of another uneventful NBA trading deadline—at least for him—by scoring 21 points on 10-for-11 shooting to lead the New York Knicks past the Philadelphia 76ers, 113-101, on Thursday.



KURT Thomas, New Tork's hardworking forward, shoots over Philadelphia's Kyle Korver to help the Knicks to a victory. AP

Thomas also grabbed 12 rebounds, and Tim Thomas shot 10-for-14 and scored 27 points for New York.

"If we play (power forward and center), it's going to be hell on people because we're such good shooters," Tim Thomas said.

"It's going to force guys that aren't used to coming out of the paint to have to come out and try and contain us."

Philadelphia, which had only eight players in uniform—none of them named Chris Webber—was led by Allen Iverson's 29 points.

Webber, acquired on Wednesday from Sacramento, will make his 76ers debut on Saturday against his old team, the Kings.

"I don't care who is on our basketball team," 76ers coach Jim O'Brien said.

"Our team has to make a decision, at some point and time, that we are going to pay the price and be a good defensive basketball team."

Stephon Marbury had 17 points and 12 assists, and Jamal Crawford added 16 points and nine assists for New York.

Mavericks 122, Kings 113

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 17 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter and Michael Finley hit two vital 3-pointers in the closing minutes to help Dallas turn a late nine-point deficit into a victory over Sacramento.

Dallas, which played just eight players and lost one to an injury late in the third quarter, trailed 98-89 with 9:02 left before going on a 13-2 run.

Nowitzki put them ahead for good on a short jumper with 4:39 to go, then Josh Howard followed with a dunk in transition that turned into a three-point play.

Marquis Daniels had season-highs with 29 points and eight assists, plus nine rebounds, and Finley added 22 points, six rebounds and four assists.

Mike Bibby and Cuttino Mobley each scored 26 for the Kings, who spoke earlier in the day about needing to forge a new identity without recently traded Chris Webber. (*see related story on this spread*).

Darius Songaila got off to a good start in his increased role by posting a career-high 23 points and a season-high 12 rebounds.

Clippers 92, Timberwolves 86

In Los Angeles, Elton Brand scored 24 points to help the Los Angeles Clippers beat Minnesota and snap an eight-game losing streak.

The Clippers, returning from a 1-8 road trip that seriously jeopardized their playoff hopes, never trailed during their first win against the Timberwolves in 10 tries.

Corey Maggette added 19 points for Los Angeles and Chris Kaman had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Kevin Garnett had 14 points and eight rebounds for Minnesota while playing just 32 minutes because of foul trouble.

He played only four minutes in the third quarter after picking up his fourth foul with 8:20 left.

Sam Cassell, who missed the previous five games because of a strained right hamstring, had five points in 10 minutes for the Timberwolves.

Shaq hurt

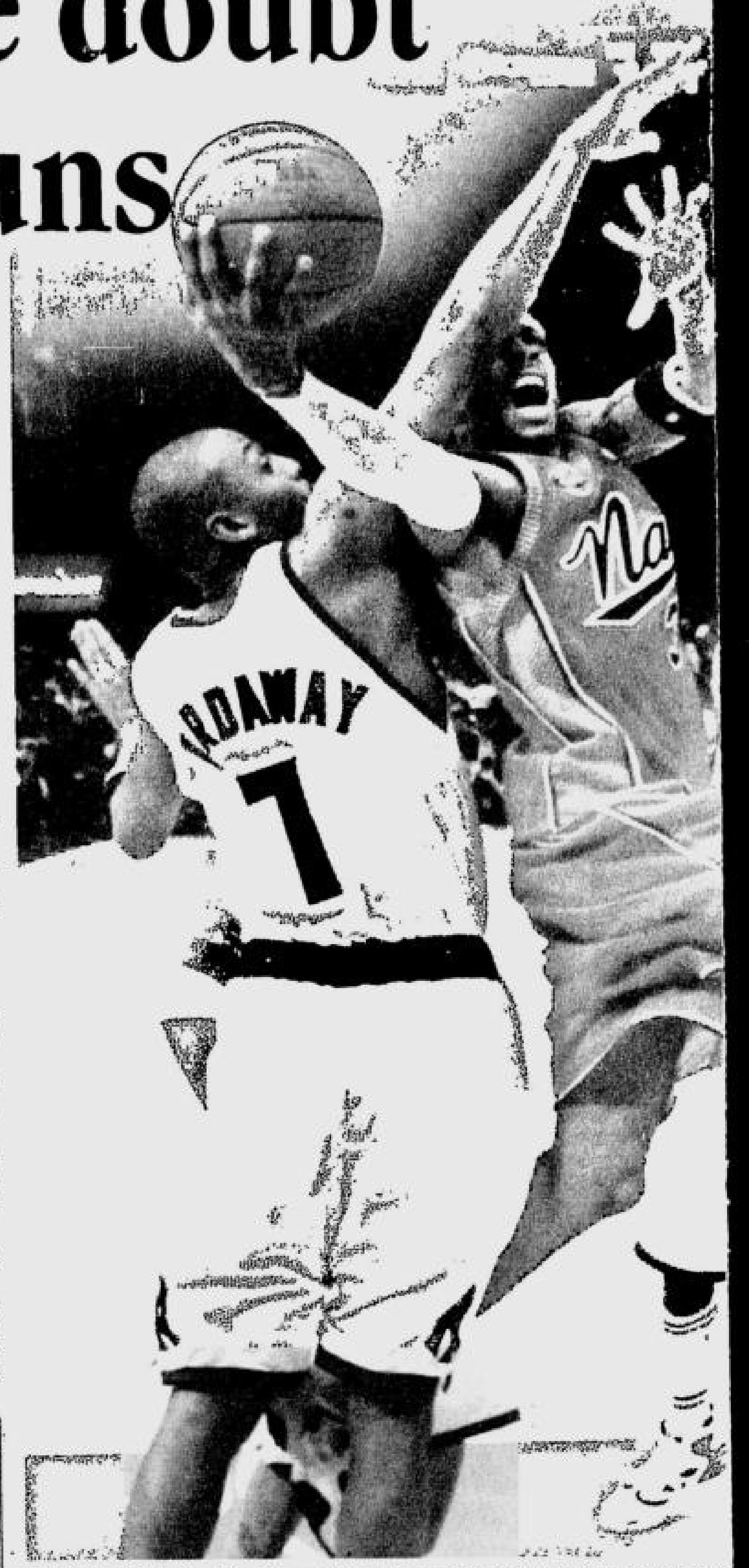
In Miami, Heat center Shaquille O'Neal is listed as day-to-day after an MRI on Thursday showed he had a mild knee sprain.

O'Neal, who has no ligament damage, could play on Saturday when the Heat host the Orlando Magic.

O'Neal suffered the injury early in the first quarter of Tuesday's game against Chicago and missed Wednesday's National Basketball Association game at Indiana.

Without the 7-foot-1 325-pound O'Neal in the middle, the Heat lost both games in overtime.

O'Neal was injured less than two minutes into Tuesday's game when he landed awkwardly on Bulls forward Othella Harrington after going for an offensive rebound. *AP, AFP*



THE KNICKS, led by Tim Thomas (right) and Penny Hardaway, make life diffic

Webber loss saddens, shocks Sacramento's leftover Kings

DALLAS—Before Sacramento Kings power forward Chris Webber got off the team bus Wednesday to play against the Mavericks, he was told he had to immediately meet with coach Rick Adelman.

A few minutes later, Adelman told Webber the Kings were on the verge of trading him to the Philadelphia 76ers.

"I'm pretty shocked," Webber said. "I didn't expect this."

No one did. But Webber's trade was the forerunner for a very busy day for NBA teams, as Thursday's trading deadline went by with several teams making moves.

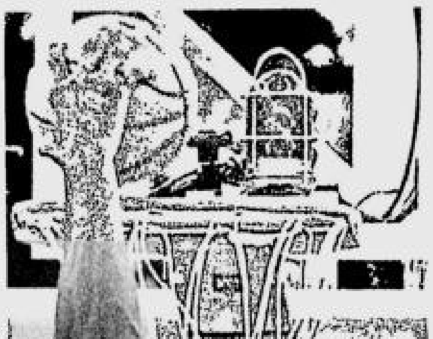
Webber was in his seventh season with the Kings and had become the face of the franchise. While Adelman wouldn't say why the Kings traded their superstar, he didn't sound too pleased.

"It's really a sad day for me," Adelman said. "He was our most dominant and bet player, and he's not here.

"Chris had a huge impact on this team. He did everything he could when he was here to help us, and that's what he had to do and that's what he can look back on."

In addition to Webber, the Kings shipped forwards Michael Bradley and Matt Barnes to the Sixers for forwards Corliss Williamson, Brian Skinner and Kenny Thomas.

Webber had become entrenched in the Sacramento community, and was perhaps the most recognizable player in town. Thus, he was surprised the Kings no longer wanted him.



SACRAMENTO has seen the last of the talented Chris Webber.

"It's funny," Webber said. "Just as much as I didn't want to come (to Sacramento), I didn't want to leave."

Frowns covered all the Kings' faces prior to Thursday's game against the Mavericks. The Webber trade was not sitting well in their corner.

"Of course you're upset because it's a good player," Kings point guard Mike Bibby said. "I didn't expect it; I didn't see it coming.

"He's a real good friend and it's tough to see him go. We already know we're definitely going to miss him."

Kings center Brad Miller shook his head in disbelief when asked about Webber no longer being his teammate.

"I'm not surprised by anything that happens in this league, that's for sure," Miller said. "I've seen some of the stupidest trades in my life and I've seen probably some pretty good trades, and I've seen a lot of (awful stuff) going on."

Earlier this season, it was reported that Webber and Kings forward Peja Stojakovic were involved in a rift. Stojakovic denied it, and added that he's already longing for Allen Iverson's newest sidekick.

"We're going to miss Chris," Stojakovic said. "I spent seven years with Chris and we had a great time, and I just wish him all the best.

"He was really an all-around player and one of the best all-around players in the league. He was amazing." *New York Times News Service*

Federer survives

DUBAI—Top seed Roger Federer had to fight off two match points before squeezing past Juan Carlos Ferrero, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, to reach the quarterfinals of the Dubai Open on Thursday.

The defending champion and world No. 1 took 2 hours and 15 minutes to earn his victory, saving match points at 6-4 in the tiebreak before claiming it, 8-6.

It was the third consecutive match in which Federer has been taken to a final set tiebreak, coming after his win in the Rotterdam final last week and his struggle against Czech qualifier Ivo Minar in the first round in Dubai.

"I definitely had a slow start again, the same as the last couple of matches, and to come back every time is quite an effort," said Federer.

"I am a little bit disappointed that I couldn't pick up my rhythm quicker, after I've won here twice."

The Swiss made a number of unforced errors early on and looked to have no feel for the ball with his returns particularly poor.

Ferrero, a former world No. 1 but now ranked 98 after his 2004 season was ravaged by sickness and injury, took advantage to claim the first set with reasonable ease.

The Spaniard broke to lead the second set, 1-0, when Federer made a wild forehand error. But the top seed then
lifted his game to finally look like
world's best player.
Federer leveled at 2-2 when Ferr
netted an overhead while off balan
before dominating the remainder
the set.
The final set was more equal w
Ferrero gaining the first advanta
breaking to lead 4-2, but he struck
third double-fault of the match to l
serve in the next game.
The set then moved on to a tiebre
and after Ferrero made errors to l
his two match points, an aggress
forehand left Federer serving for vic
ry. He closed out the match with a s
vice winner.
"I haven't been playing well, but I
been coming through," Federer adde
"I'm winning the crucial points a
that shows I'm on top of my game wh
I have to be."
In other games, third seed Tim H
man struggled against Russia's Igor A
dreev early on but after edging the fi
set in a tiebreak the Briton was able
dominate the second, breaking for
and 5-1 on the way to claiming a 7-6,
1 victory.
Seventh seeded Russian Mikh
Youzhny beat Germany's Rainer Schu
tler, 7-5, 6-4, but eighth seed Ivan Lju
cic of Croatia had a much tougher t
in disposing of Spain's Fernando Verd
co, 6-7, 6-4, 7-6. *Reute*

Sharapova, Hantuchova forge semis duel

SHARAPOVA AFP

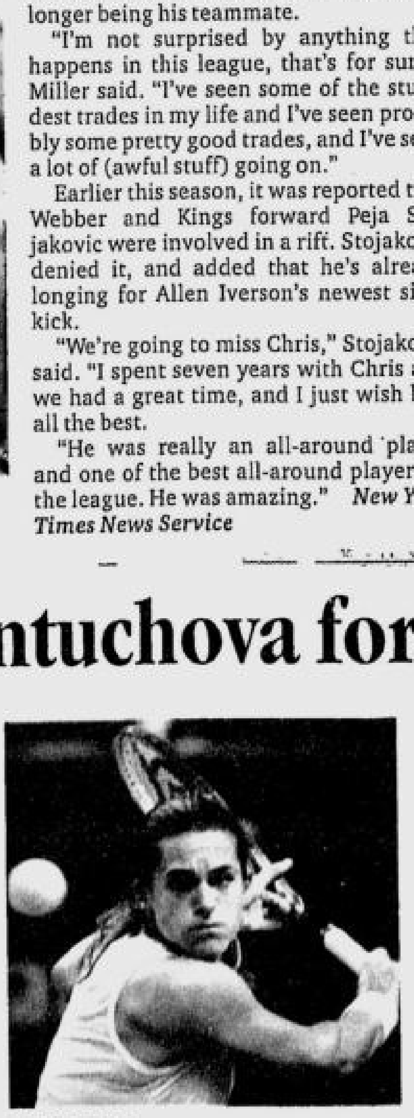
DOHA, Qatar—Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo defeated Maria Kirilenko of Russia, 6-2, 6-2, at the Qatar Open on Thursday and remained on track to earn her third successive final this month.

Mauresmo will face fourth-seeded Alicia Molik of Australia in Friday's semifinals, while Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova will play former top-5 player Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia.

After losing the final in Paris then winning in Antwerp last weekend, Mauresmo has won 10 of 12 matches this year.

"I am very happy that I am playing well here in Doha," she said. "I had good match practice yesterday (on Wednesday) and today also. I hope I can do as well in the semifinal. I am playing good tennis right now."

Second-seeded Sharapova beat Marion Bartoli of France, 6-3, 6-2, to reach her third semifinals in as many events this year.



MAURESMO

Sharapova's second easy straight-sets win confirmed she was well past the bronchitis which forced her to withdraw before the Open Gaz de France this month.

"I was able to get a lot of balls in today," Sharapova said. "My shotmaking was pretty OK and I was fairly consistent with my returns. I was a bit slow at the start, but I recovered well by serving strongly (after game three). I came up with the goods when I had to."

Molik survived a scare before defeating Francesca Schiavone of Italy, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (1), and Hantuchova downed Spanish veteran Conchita Martinez, 6-4, 6-1, in a rain-interrupted quarterfinals.

Hantuchova broke 1994 Wimbledon champion Martinez three times in each set of a match which was halted in the first set by a two-hour rain delay. Martinez had ousted two-time defending champion Anastasia Myskina the previous day, but was overwhelmed by Hantuchova, who reached her first WTA Tour semifinals since June.

"It's been a good start for me this season. I worked very hard in the offseason," said Hantuchova, ranked 28th. *AP*

HANTUCHOVA

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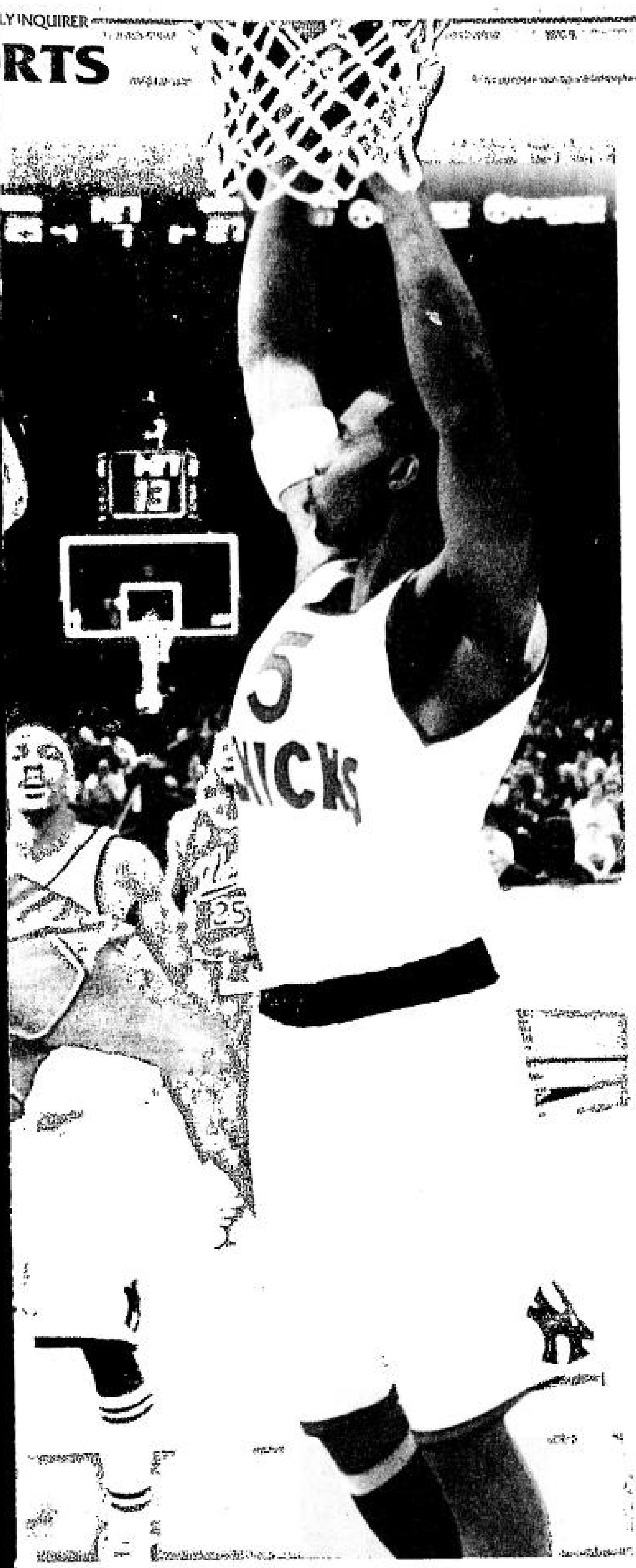


lt for Allen Iverson (center) and the Philadelphia 76ers. AP

Big deals rock trade deadline

NEW YORK—The weak Atlantic Division in the NBA suddenly looks a little stronger, with Antoine Walker back with the Boston Celtics and Chris Webber on the Philadelphia 76ers by the trade deadline on Thursday.

A total of 11 deals involving 35 players were made in the final 24 hours before the cutoff.

Baron Davis was traded from New Orleans to Golden State for Speedy Claxton and Dale Davis, Keith Van Horn went from Milwaukee to Dallas for Calvin Booth and Alan Henderson, and Houston acquired several veterans to add to the league's oldest roster.

Walker went to Boston in a four-player trade, with Gary Payton, Michael Stewart, Tom Gugliotta and a No. 1 pick going to Atlanta.

Rodney Rogers and injured forward Jamal Mashburn were dealt from New Orleans to Philadelphia for Glenn Robinson, who has not played this season. It was the second trade in a span of less than 24 hours by 76ers general manager Billy King, who pulled off a blockbuster on Wednesday by acquiring Webber from the Sacramento Kings for forwards Corliss Williamson, Brian Skinner and Kenny Thomas.

"They're going to probably win the Atlantic now," Cleveland's LeBron James said. "It's going to make them one of the top four teams in the Eastern Conference. I know (Allen) Iverson is very happy about it. I'm going to call him and tell him he got an early Christmas present."

In other deals:

- San Antonio acquired center Nazr Mohammed and guard Jamison Brewer from New York for forward Malik Rose and two future No. 1 draft picks
- Cleveland acquired guard Jiri Welsch from Boston for a future No. 1 pick.
- New York acquired forward Maurice Taylor from Houston for guard Moochie Norris, forward Vin Baker and a second-round draft pick.
- Houston got guard Mike James and center Zendon Hamilton from Milwaukee for guard Reece Gaines and two future second-round picks.
- Golden State sent center Eduardo Najera to Denver, guard Luis Flores and a No. 1 pick to Denver for forward Nikoloz Tskitishvili and guard Rodney White.
- Charlotte dealt veteran Steve Smith to Miami for forward Malik Allen.

None of Thursday's 10 deals—making it the busiest deadline day for trades in a decade—matched the magnitude of the six-player swap on Wednesday in which the 76ers got Webber and forwards Michael Bradley and Matt Barnes.

Webber was expected to play his first game for the Sixers on Saturday against, of all teams, Sacramento.

The Sixers are 26-27 and just a half-game behind Boston for first place in the Atlantic Division.

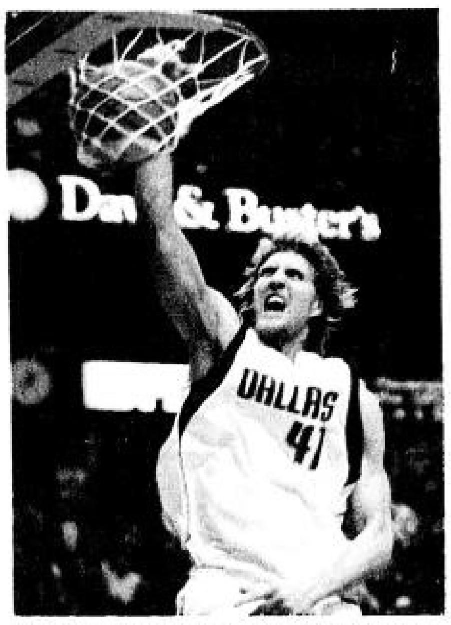
In the 76ers' other deal, the major principles—Mashburn and Robinson—are injured and have not played this season. Rogers can become a free agent at the end of the year, but his 3-point shooting fits nicely with coach Jim O'Brien's offensive philosophy.

Mashburn is making $9.3 million this year and $10.1 million next year, but seems likely to retire because of his knee injury.

Davis, a two-time All-Star who finished sixth in the NBA in scoring last season, will form a potent backcourt combination with Jason Richardson in Golden State. He has missed 36 games this season while struggling with several injuries and is still owed $63 million over the next four years.

The ever-tinkering Dallas Mavericks made a surprising move in getting Van Horn, who has been hobbled all season by tendinitis in his right ankle.

He's averaged 17 points and 7.3 rebounds over a career that has included stints with the Nets, 76ers, Knicks and Bucks.



DIRK Nowitzki will get a lot more help with the acquisition of Keith van Horn. REUTERS

"Keith's versatility, experience and shooting ability were the factors for us to make this decision," said Donnie Nelson, Dallas' head of basketball operations.

Van Horn is due nearly $16 million next season, while Henderson becomes a free agent and Booth is owed a little more than $6 million. The Milwaukee Bucks are expected to spend the extra money on a contract extension for shooting guard Michael Redd, who can become an unrestricted free agent this summer.

"I think what we've established is that Michael (Redd) is a piece to building a championship team," Bucks general manager Larry Harris said. "He has a skill that is unmatched (except) by maybe four or five players in the league." *AP*

Jenny fires 66, leads Hawaii tourney

From page A23

said. "I felt I was going to shoot low, but I didn't know it was going to be this low."

On the par-3 15th, Rosales split the ironwood trees with a 5-iron and then holed a 20-foot birdie putt.

She looked comfortable the rest of the way, finishing with birdies on the par-5 third and ninth. She chipped to 8 feet at No. 3 and hit a wedge to 10 feet on the 511-yard ninth.

Rosales, the 1998 NCAA individual champion, hit all 18 greens in regulation and had just 29 putts.

"The course is awesome," said Smart Communications-endorser Rosales. "It kind of fits my game because I play the ball left to right and some of the holes you have to play it that way."

Juli Inkster opened with a 69 that included a bogey at the ninth.

Wie was in a group at 70 with Grace Park, who was second on the money list last year with 12 top-10 finishes.

Also at 70 were Joellyn Crooks, Hee-Won Han, Carin Koch, Pat Hurst, Rosie Jones, Beth Bader, Becky Morgan, Christina Kim, Eva Dahlloff, Jimin Kang, Cristie Kerr and 19-year-old rookie Brittany Lincicome.

In addition to Wie, the tournament featured seven other teens, including 18-year-old Paula Creamer, making her debut as an LPGA Tour member.

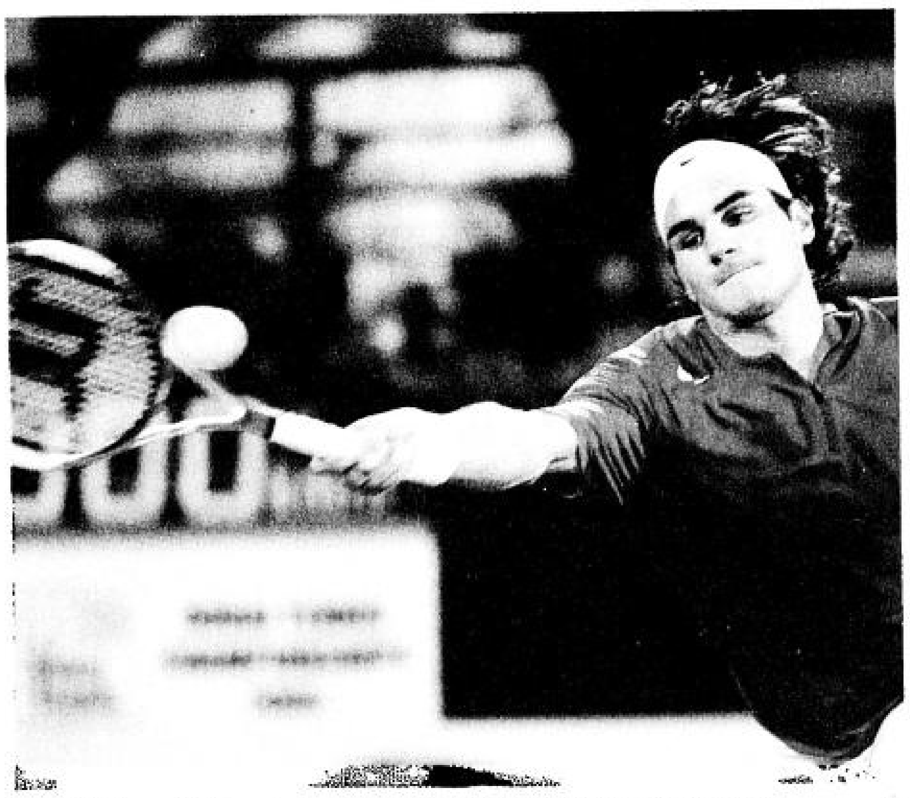
Creamer, the youngest golfer to win the LPGA qualifying tournament, opened with a 1-over 73.

But all eyes were on Wie, who was playing on a sponsor's exemption and missed the cut in the PGA Tour's Sony Open last month.

Wie had a rocky start, with two birdies negated by two bogeys over the first seven holes. She calmed down and was bogey-free the rest of the way.

Stanford had a shaky start, but quickly gained her composure. She three-putted from 50 feet for a bogey at No. 11. She made the turn at 33. *AP*

Ferrero; Henman gains



ROGER Federer of Switzerland returns to Spanish opponent Juan Carlos Ferrero. AFP

AP

18 sharpshooters . . .

From page A24

ception in air rifle.

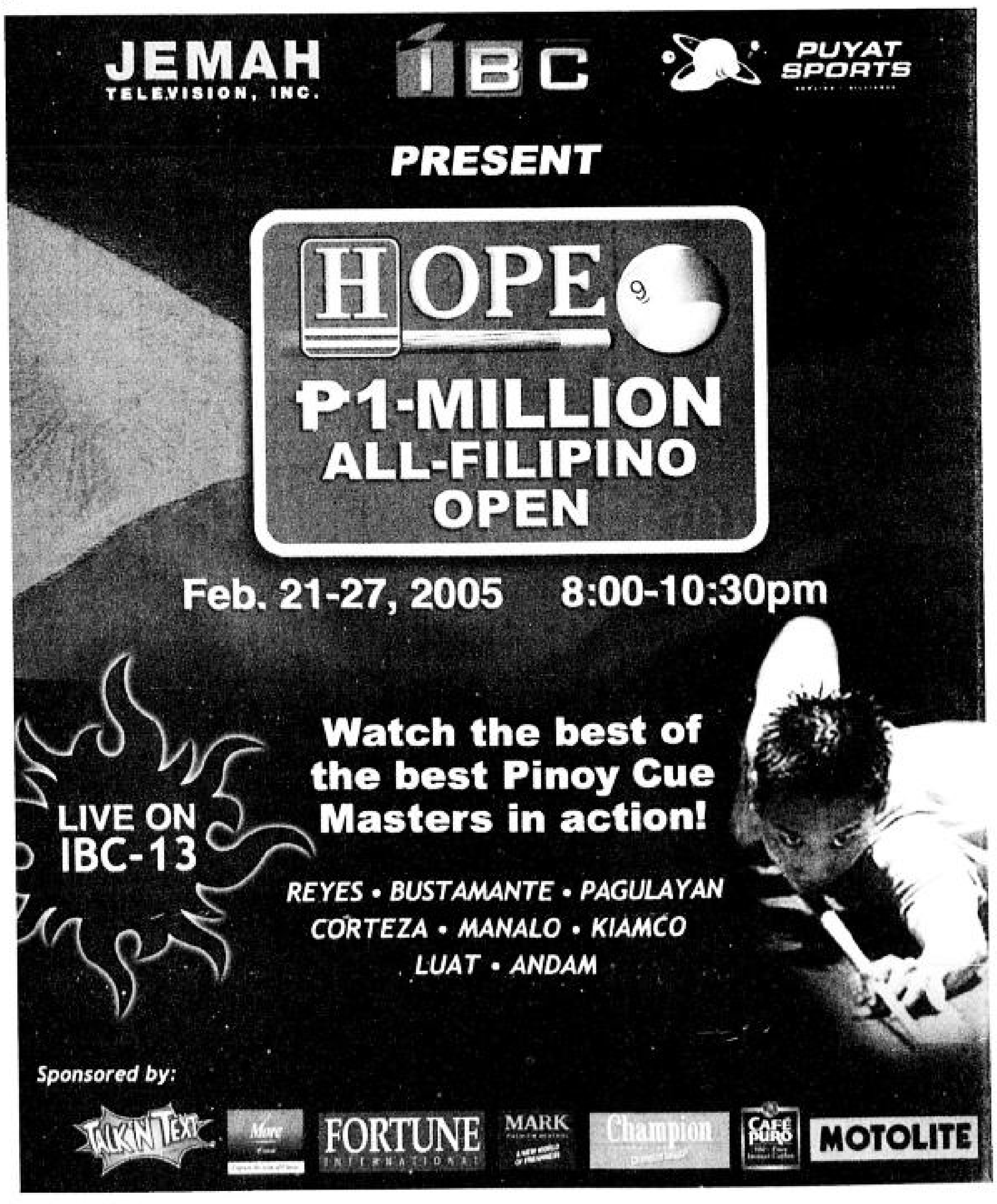
Mundo said that the extensive monthly tryouts will end this coming June.

The final tryouts will be held July to determine the composition of the national team, which is tasked with improving the lone medal its predecessor harvested in the 2003 SEA Games in Vietnam—courtesy of Dionisio and trap teammates Eric Ang and Jimmy Recio.

Ang and Recio also made it to the final test along with shotgun artists Jose Ramon Carral and Jerry sun in trap and Patricio Bernardo and Paul Brian Rosario, both in skeet.

Joining Concepcion as aspirants in the rifle squad are Benny Cagurin, Edwin Fernandez, Alfonso Hermoso, Rocky Padilla and Eddie Tomas.

Only a pair of woman gunners have so far qualified to continue aspiring for slots—Gay Josephine Corral in trap and Rachel Maria Capili in air rifle.



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TIGER Woods of the USA watches his approach shot on the fourth hole.

Tiger, Vijay lead romp of Match Play favorites

CARLSBAD, California—Title holder Tiger Woods and world No. 1 Vijay Singh cruised to first-round victories at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship on Thursday, while 2000 winner Darren Clarke made an early exit.

After days of lashing rain delayed the start of the $7.5-million event by 24 hours, play finally began at the La Costa Resort and Spa under more typical southern Californian sunshine.

Woods, bidding for a third consecutive crown here and a return to the top of the world rankings, eased past Zimbabwe's Nick Price, 4 & 3, to extend his unbeaten run in the tournament to 13 matches and take his overall record to a sparkling 21-3.

Price, a three-time major winner, represented a tricky test but the world No. 2 went one up at the opening hole and never trailed.

"Today was most important to get off to a quick start and I was able to do that," said Woods, who now meets Australia's Nick O'Hern.

Singh, who has never progressed beyond the second round here in five attempts, opened his campaign by crushing Japan's Shingo Katayama, 4 & 3.

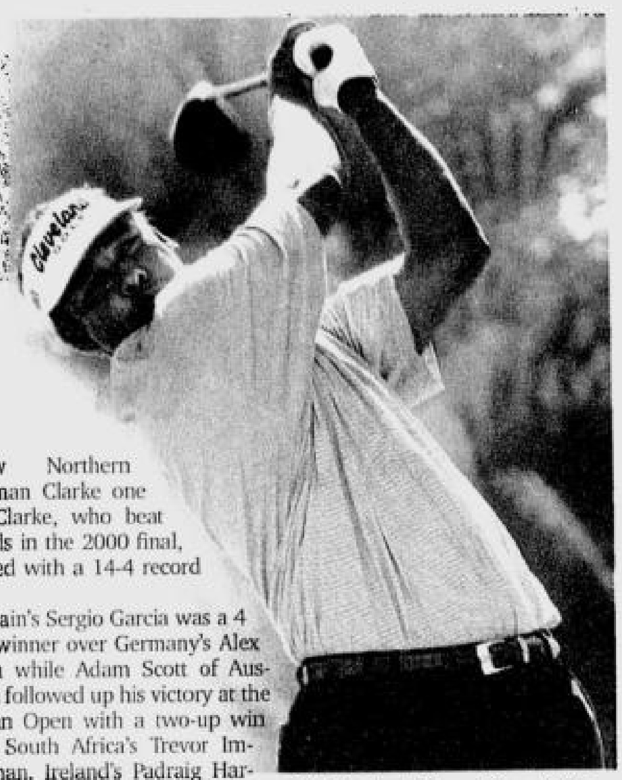
Woods will return to the top if he finishes third and Singh loses in round two, or if the 29-year-old American is runner-up to anyone but the Fijian.

Next up for Singh is American Jay Haas, a dangerous opponent who reached the quarterfinals two years ago.

Riding the momentum from back-to-back wins at the recent Phoenix Open and Pebble Beach Pro-Am, world No. 4 Phil Mickelson beat fellow American Loren Roberts, 3 and 1, while world No. 5 Retief Goosen of South Africa edged Australia's Stephen Leaney by one hole.

Canada's Mike Weir, the world No. 9, suffered a surprise one-hole defeat by American Kirk Triplett but Graeme McDowell registered the biggest upset, birdying the final hole to oust former champion and fellow Northern Irishman Clarke one up. Clarke, who beat Woods in the 2000 final, arrived with a 14-4 record here.

Spain's Sergio Garcia was a 4 & 2 winner over Germany's Alex Cejka while Adam Scott of Australia followed up his victory at the Nissan Open with a two-up win over South Africa's Trevor Immelman. Ireland's Padraig Harrington beat 1999 winner Jeff Maggert one up. *Reuters*


VIJAY Singh hits a driver off the 11th tee. REUTERS

No wind gauge, no mark for Soguilon

By Jasmine W. Payo

TRACK and field's brightest new prospect appears headed for another disappointment.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has announced it's disregarding the new national record set by La Salle track star Ralph Waldy Soguilon.

La Salle says it would appeal.

Soguilon clocked 21.43 seconds in the 200-meter dash of the UAAP athletics competition last Feb. 18 to shatter Isidro del Prado's 20-year-old national record of 21.44 seconds.

But IAAF cited the lack of an important equipment.

According to the federation secretary general, Maurice Nicholas, "without the presence of the wind gauge when the meet was held, the record will not be technically considered."

In 2002, Soguilon also lost a chance to break the national record in the 100-m dash because the competition did not use a wind gauge.

"It is a big disappointment for a young man," said Danny Jose, UAAP president and La Salle's athletic director.

"We haven't been officially informed about it but we will consider filing an appeal."

"It's disappointing because this is the second time it has happened to me," said Soguilon, a graduating student of Electronics and Communications Engineering.

SOGUILON: It's disappointing because this is the second time it has happened to me.

Miyazato keeps lead; Joh equals course mark 63

GOLD COAST, Australia—Just when American amateur golfer Tiffany Joh thought her second round at the ANZ Ladies Masters on Friday was as good as it was going to get, it got a whole lot better.

Joh, 18, tied the course record at Royal Pines on Friday with a 9-under-par 63 that included a double eagle, or albatross, on the par-5 ninth, her final hole of the day.

After an opening 1-over 73 Thursday, she was tied for third place at 8-under 136 Friday, five strokes back of second-round leader Ai Miyazato of Japan.

The Philadelphia-born San Diego resident started her round on the back nine with five straight pars. A pair of birdies at 15 and 16—her sixth and seventh holes of the day—put her 2-under at the turn, when things really started to happen.

"I sank a couple of 15 or 20-footers for birdies and on my 16th—the seventh—I holed my bunker shot," said Joh.

But after parring the eighth, leaving her 6-under for the day, she had 195 meters (213 yards) to the flag on the ninth.

She took a five-wood out of her bag to play her second shot and hit a smooth, rising shot toward the elevated green.

Miyazato and Karrie Webb also had 63s on Royal Pines, Miyazato on Thursday to take the first-round lead and Webb in 1999. *AP*

Sosa, Cubs still exchanging barbs

MESA, Arizona—Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker and some of his players are disputing some comments Sammy Sosa made when he reported to the Baltimore Orioles' camp.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Sosa was asked about comments by Cubs players who said he and the team were better off following the Feb. 2 trade. Sosa apparently interpreted that as the Cubs saying they didn't need him anymore.

"They lie," Sosa was quoted as saying in several newspapers.

The Cubs insisted on Thursday that's not what they said or meant.

"Did I say that?" asked Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood. "I never did say it, so apparently somebody else lies. Not him. I'm not talking about him. I never said we were better without Sammy. I said I think both teams got better in the offseason not because we got rid of Sammy but because of some other moves we made. I don't have to justify myself. The comments I made, none of them were directed at Sammy. I did nothing but wish Sammy the best of luck, and I'll continue to wish Sammy the best of luck."

Sosa, who played for the Cubs from 1992-2004, left the final game of last season without permission less than 15 minutes after the first pitch. He later criticized Baker, saying he was tired of the Cubs manager blaming him for the team's failure to make the playoffs.

Sosa said on Wednesday that if he had known his departure would cause such controversy, he wouldn't have done it. He said Baker had given him the final day off.

That's not how Baker saw things on Thursday.

"Actually, the trainer came in the night before and told me he (Sosa) wanted off," Baker said. "He said he wanted off. I said, 'Fine, if that's how you want it, if you don't want to play, then I'll play [rookie Jason] Dubois. I didn't give him the day off. He asked for it. Again, it's a matter of who you believe."

Sosa praised Orioles manager Lee Mazzilli and told reporters Mazzilli was the first manager to be honest with him. *AP*

Solon wants Canseco to appear at congress

WASHINGTON—Democratic lawmaker Henry Waxman of California asked Thursday that former baseball star Jose Canseco appear at congressional hearings to talk about the steroid scandal.

Waxman would also like to call Canseco's former teammate, Mark McGwire, and force them to testify under oath about the culture of performance-enhancing drugs in Major League Baseball (MLB).

"Jose Canseco's allegations about steroid use by Mark McGwire and other baseball players have received enormous media attention. Mr. Canseco insists his information is accurate," Waxman said.

"Our committee should hold a hearing with Mr. Canseco, Mr. McGwire and others and have them testify under oath. *AFP*

DODGERS pitcher Kazuhisa Ishii stretches before a practice session. AFP

Iguchi fitting in to be Sox

TUCSON, Arizona—Tadahito Iguchi's body clock is a bit out of whack, so when he hit a home run on his second day of major league baseball spring training, it was a rather remarkable accomplishment.

Yeah, sure it was just batting practice, but he's still trying to shake off jet lag after arriving at the Chicago White Sox spring camp two days ago.

Iguchi's homer off veteran reliever Cliff Politte will surely be big news back home in Japan where there is a 15-hour time difference.

His every move is being monitored by about two dozen Japanese journalists and cameramen. Every ground ball he fields in practice is charted. His presence is a much bigger stir than a year ago when Japanese saves leader Shingo Takatsu joined the White Sox.

Iguchi, signed to play second base, will make $2.3 million this year and $2.4 million in 2006. Chicago has a $3.25-million option for 2007 with a $250,000 buyout. *AP*

La Salle, 13 other teams vie in Benitez Cup table tennis

FOURTEEN teams, led by powerhouse La Salle, Ateneo and University of the Philippines, are competing in the first Conrado Benitez Sports Cup Table Tennis Invitational this weekend at the Philippine Women's University gym on Taft Avenue, Manila.

The two-day event is organized by Dr. Arnulfo Lopez, the school's AVP Human relations services, sports coordinator Marielle Benitez and sports program officer Raula Santos, and sponsored by Topcoms marketing, Stiga and Green Paddle.

WORLD INDOOR

US tracksters aspire for glory, money

BOSTON, Massachusetts—With no World Indoor Championships to aspire to this winter, Adam Nelson, Allyson Felix, Jamie Nieto, Danielle Carruthers and Bershawn Jackson go only for the gold—and greenbacks—at the US indoor athletics championships this weekend.

The quintet heads the cast for the world's longest running indoor athletics meeting—a meet whose history dates back to 1888—that caps the four-month long indoor season in the United States.

Each of them had close calls in Olympic-year 2004.

Nelson took the silver medal in the Athens Olympic shot put, after equaling the eventual gold-medal performance in the first round, but fouling his next five throws.

Felix, the 19-year-old sprint phenomenon, won the Athens silver in women's 200m, just 13-hundredths of a second off gold-medal pace.

She "drops down" to the 60-meter distance in Boston.

Nieto settled for fourth in the Olympic high jump, although he cleared the bar at 2.34 m, a height good enough to take the silver. But he had one too many misses on the way up and wound up off the podium.

Tora Harris, his Olympic teammate, rates as Nieto's top threat in the men's high jump.

Hurdlers Carruthers and Jackson had even tougher luck, not getting to Athens at all after fourth-place finishes at the US Olympic Trials.

Now, it's time to put all these things behind.

Nelson will square off with his Olympic teammates, John Godina and Reese Hoffa, as well as Christian Cantwell, in the men's shot put.

Felix battles with top challengers Muna Lee and Angela Daigle in women's 60.

The meeting offers financial incentives, as well as the traditional medals and prestige. It completes USA Track and Field's four-meet Visa Championship Series, which carries a $100,000 purse to top performers, topped by the $25,000 checks to the men and women athletes posting best marks on the IAAF scoring tables. *AFP*

RUSSIA'S Anna Pyatykh shows her winning form in the triple jump. AFP

NCR, Laguna booters keep sharp form in Luzon tilt

POWERHOUSE National Capital Region, represented by the Navy Football Club, routed Oriental Mindoro, 14-1, Thursday to take top spot in the North/South Luzon qualifying round of the 2005 PFF/Adidas National Men's Championships at the Philsports field.

Laguna, last years runner-up to the National Capital Region, tightened its hold of second spot with a 2-1 thriller over Baguio.

Adonis Torres hit the back of the net on the 32nd minute and Richmond Braga scored on the 47th to give Laguna a 2-0 lead. Baguio put one back with a strike by Alvin Ymana in the 63rd minute, but the Laguna back-four held solidly for the remainder of the match to eliminate Baguio.

NCR shoots for a sweep of the eliminations against Tarlac.

Montalban also put up a good show by winning its second match in a row.

Montalban beat Tarlac, 4-1, with goals from Aldons Mirafuentes (8th minute), Jimmy Dimson (12th and 57th minute) and Wilfredo Capuz in the 90th. Tarlac's lone goal was scored by Rowell Dosono on the 28th minute.

The event is supported by PFF sponsor-partners Petron, Red Ribbon Bakeshop and SuperFerry.

The finals is set from March 6-11 in Cagayan de Oro City. Three teams from Mindanao and three from Luzon will join two from the Visayas to battle it out for the PFF/Adidas trophy.

SPORTSWATCH

Mangaldan bikefest

THE ANNUAL Mangaldan bikefest dubbed as "Werweran X" kicks off at 9 a.m. tomorrow with the town's chief executive Herminio A. Romero flagging off some 100 participants. Top guns in Philippine cycling battle for P60,000 in cash prizes. Trophies and medals will also be awarded. The 72-km executive race starts and finishes at the host town, passing the municipalities of San Jacinto and San Fabian then back to Mangaldan four times. The 144-km open race traverses the same route eight times. Summit sprint prizes are sponsored by Jesse Maanag, DPWH 2nd Engineering District top honcho Rodolfo Boy Dion, Mr. and Mrs Charles Evans and ex-professional cyclist Carlito Enriquez. The bikefest will be aired live over dzSR Sports Radio (91.8 khz a.m.).

New boxing gym opens

THE TIGER City Boxing Center joins the search for world champions with its inauguration today at 145 San Francisco St., Mandaluyong City. Owner-manager Jay Pedro said guests will include GAB chair Eric Buhain, Mandaluyong Mayor Boyet Gonzales and Rep. Benhur Abalos. Gym motto is "Get fit without getting hit." The place, open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., caters to all aspiring boxers.

3-cock derby today

THE MUCH-AWAITED special 3-cock derby blasts off at 6 p.m. today at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum featuring 90 fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor-Casino Filipino. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias and veteran cocker Cito Manansala, who is based in Pasay Cockpit, have combined their invited entries for this event which stakes a cash prize of P300,000. Participants will receive a P2,000 first bet certificate from Casino Filipino-Parañaque. The fastest kill champion will get an additional P10,000 first bet certificate. Meanwhile, two 3-cock events with a winner-take-all format are scheduled at Las Piñas Coliseum on March 12 and 19 to be hosted by former Mayor Nene Aguilar. Entry fee is P3,300. For inquiries, call 873-1040, 8743910 and 0926-7450375.

P1.5M pot hunt on

THE HUNT for the P1.5 million guaranteed prize begins today when the first-round eliminations of 'Largahan 5-Cock Derby" gets under way at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Derby host Rolly Ligon said the event will start at 2 p.m. since more than 100 fights are slated. An imported Toyota 4x4 Surf will be given to the fastest kill champion. Favorites include the entries of Anniversary Derby champions Jeric Junio, DR Macadagdag and Wewe Burgos, World Slasher Cup champions William Go and Rey Briones, Pol Estrellado, LGBA president Boy Diaz, Edmund Yasay, Darwin Torres, Bobby Ceelin, Pinggoy Lagumbay and Francis Lumunsad. The second and third round eliminations will be staged on Monday and Wednesday, respectively. All qualifiers battle one another on March 4 for the championship round.

Antonio-Uy clash up

THE MUCH-AWAITED match-up between *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and Bebot Uy of Davao, who is one of the toughest cockers in Mindanao, will be featured on Tuesday and Thursday (March 1 and 3) via the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. Antonio, fresh from bagging two derby championships, will field two entries (Complexor 3000 Firefly 14 and PEBR Complexor 3000 Mulawin) while Uy will bring in his famed Red Stallion entries. Uy is co-hosting the event with Boy Jiao and the Firefly Group. Participants must submit their entries on Monday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta green gate. Interested parties may call 911-3101 and 911-2928 (look for Dong Lamuste or Gloria Avena). The next NCA derby is on March 15 and 17 with Jet Fernando of Pampanga, MTJ Brothers, Gov. Ito Ynares and Albert Dichavez as hosts. Meanwhile, the NCA screening committee is set to screen cockerels from March 1 to 31, in preparation for the stag derbies in September.

Mikee, Joker smash 26-year-old RP mark

ASIAN Games gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and Joker Arroyo, namesake and daughter of the senator, broke the 26-year-old Philippine height record of 1.66 meters when they both cleared 1.74 in front of a huge and enthusiastic crowd during the Kamiseta Cup Showjumping Championships at Manila Polo Club recently.

The old mark was set in 1979 by veteran internationalist Steven Virata.

All the entries in the puissance (high jump) category cleared the initial heights of 1.39 and 1.53 meters, but it was only Cojuangco-Jaworski and Arroyo who survived the 1.64-meter level and earned a crack at the record.

Both riders knocked the wall down on their first try at 1.74 meters. But they didn't miss the record on their second try.

As soon as they cleared the jump, the crowd erupted in cheers and celebrated the new record with the riders.

The other categories were equally well fought with Filipinos edging out two tough Australians in separate categories.

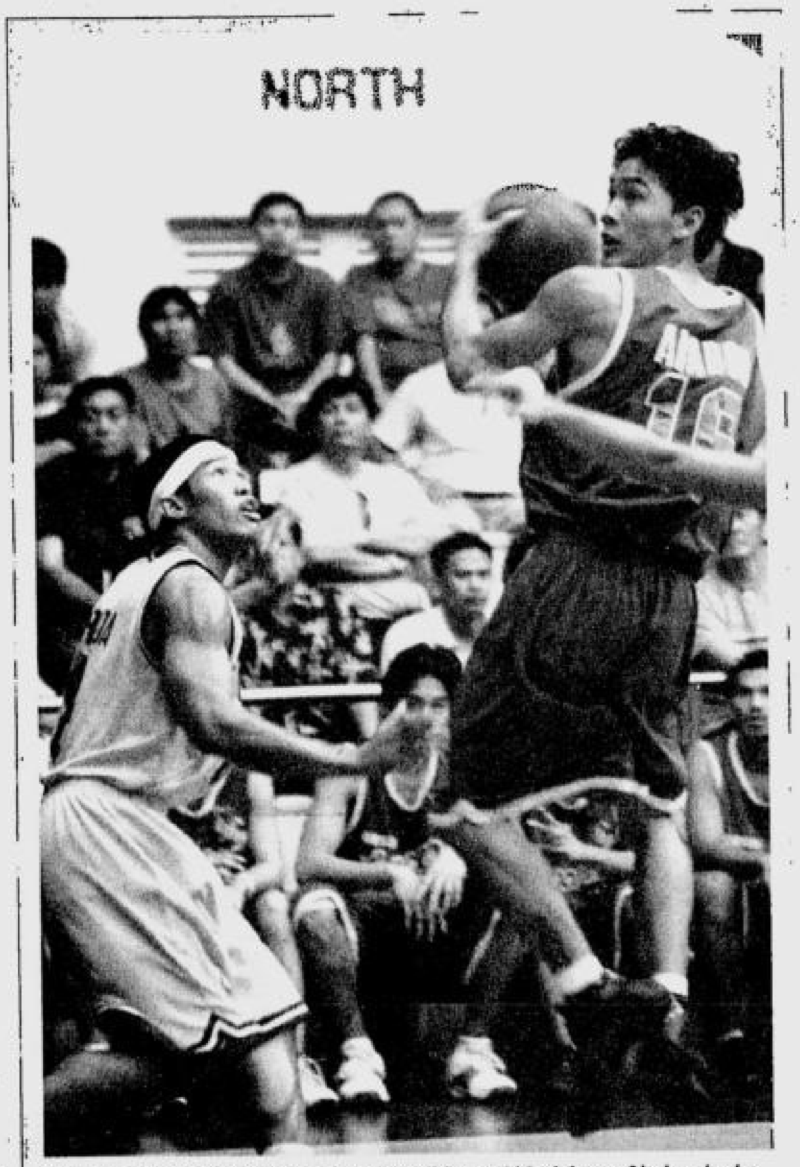
International campaigner Vic Barba showed up Australian Youth Olympic rider Mikeli O'Leary in the 1.25-meter class and promising rider Diego Lorenzo upstaged O'Leary's teammate Danni Virata for the 1.15-meter plum.

It was a family affair in the 1.05-meter class with Mateo Lorenzo beating his brother Diego for the crown.

Nathalie Zani, graceful and precise, took the champion's trophy over Mateo Lorenzo in the 0.90-meter class.

The veteran tandem of Steven Virata and Anna Sison outshone the young but talented Danni Virata and Chelsea Co in the team event.

VICTORS' ROW: Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski (kneeling at left) and Joker Arroyo (fifth from left, standing) with the other top finishers and events officials. From left, standing, Steven Virata, Gunn Roque, Cris Roque, Diego Lorenzo, Arroyo, Vic Barba, Mateo Lorenzo, Anna Sison and Ramon Sy. Kneeling, same order, Cojuangco-Jaworski, Nathalie Zani, Chelsea Co, Alexis Cortes, Danni Virata, Mikeli O'Leary.



BATTLE OF CHAMPIONS: University of Visayas' Mark Jason Ababon looks for an open teammate off Far Eastern's Dennis Miranda during their semifinal game Thursday at the Makati Coliseum. The Tamaraws downed the Lancers, 85-71, to forge a title showdown Sunday with the University of the East Warriors in the tournament sponsored by Petron, Smart Addict, PCSO, Air21, adidas, Glaxo SKF, Wilson and Pascual Laboratories. ROMY HOMILLADA

Shell hands Dela Cruz ₱15-M deal

By June Navarro

FOR helping the Shell team rise from the depths, Tony Dela Cruz is getting more than just a pat on the back.

The Turbochargers signed the 6-foot-4 shooting guard to a long-term pact worth almost P15 million spread over three-and-a-half years.

Dela Cruz's contract, which allows a maximum monthly take of P350,000 exclusive of perks and bonuses running until June, 2008, automatically makes the former University of California-Irvine marksman the cornerstone of Shell's championship bid.

"I just want a championship. That's been my goal since Day One," said the 26-year-old Dela Cruz, who began his Philippine Basketball Association career with the Turbochargers in 2000.

Coach Leo Austria and the Turbochargers came close to entering the Finals of the PBA Philippine Cup last conference before the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals swept them in a best-of-five semifinal series.

Now, barely a week before the import-spiced reinforced conference opens, Austria's roster has remained intact with the 7-foot-1 Eric Chenowith providing the Turbochargers solid ceiling.

The Turbochargers also signed up veteran Chris Jackson to a one-year pact while extending playmaker Kalani Ferreria to another six months. Rensy Bajar is also set to get a three-month extension after his contract expires next month.

"As far as this conference goes, all we can do is feed off the last All-Filipino (conference) and just come in with the attitude that we can compete," said Dela Cruz, last conference's only four-time PBA Press Corps Player of the Week.

With Dela Cruz's vast improvement came the Turbochargers' progress and it happened immediately after Shell management hired Austria as head coach in the Fiesta Cup last year.

Since Austria took over the helm, the Turbochargers has transformed from perennial tail-enders to title contenders. The Turbochargers has entered the quarterfinals in the Fiesta Cup, something they had failed to achieve since 2000.

In the Philippine Cup, Austria steered the Turbochargers to 12 victories against six losses in the eliminations, one of Shell's best records in the elimination round since joining the league in 1985.

From a 6.2-point scoring average in 2002, Dela Cruz jumped to 14.5 points per game in 2003 before averaging 18.5 points last conference.

Daughter wants to wear Diay's RP colors

TOILING in an obscure playground somewhere in Project 4, Quezon City is a 15-year-old athlete with a royal sporting bloodline.

Her name is Stephanie Mercado. And although her surname, her face, her long limbs and her height fetch comparisons to one of the greatest names in the history of Philippine sports, the similarities end there.

Mercado, after all, is the daughter of the legendary Lydia de Vega-Mercado, the famed trackster who once dominated the Asian scene with the substance of a pure athlete and the flamboyance of a star.

STEPHANIE idolizes Brazilian Leila Barros

The young Stephanie, while inheriting her mother's athletic genes, did not take on Lydia's inclination for the tracks. The St. Bridget high senior is currently hooked on volleyball, a team sports so different in philosophy from the me-against-the-world exactness of athletics.

"*Parang mas mahirap yung* individual sports, *mas gusto ko itong* team (It's much more difficult in individual sports, I like team sports better)," said Stephanie who, just a few years ago, won most valuable player honors in a neighborhood tournament in Project 4.

"Tapos napanood ko yung mga international volleyball games *dito noong nagpunta sina* Leila Barros, *nahilig na talaga ako sa* volleyball (And then I got to watch the international volleyball games here where the likes of Leila Barros played and that really got me more interested in volleyball)," she added.

As could only be expected, Stephanie did admit that her relatives felt somewhat disappointed when she first started to take up volleyball instead of don a track suit and make her way around the oval. But eventually, they began to realize her potentials.

In fact, nowadays, Lydia and husband Paolo Mercado accompany Stephanie and cheer for her during her games in the Milo-BEST women's volleyball league. And Lydia, who urged Stephanie to follow her heart when it comes to picking a sports, even has a standing invitation to grace the tournament's championship games, according to tournament organizer Marlyn Jorge.

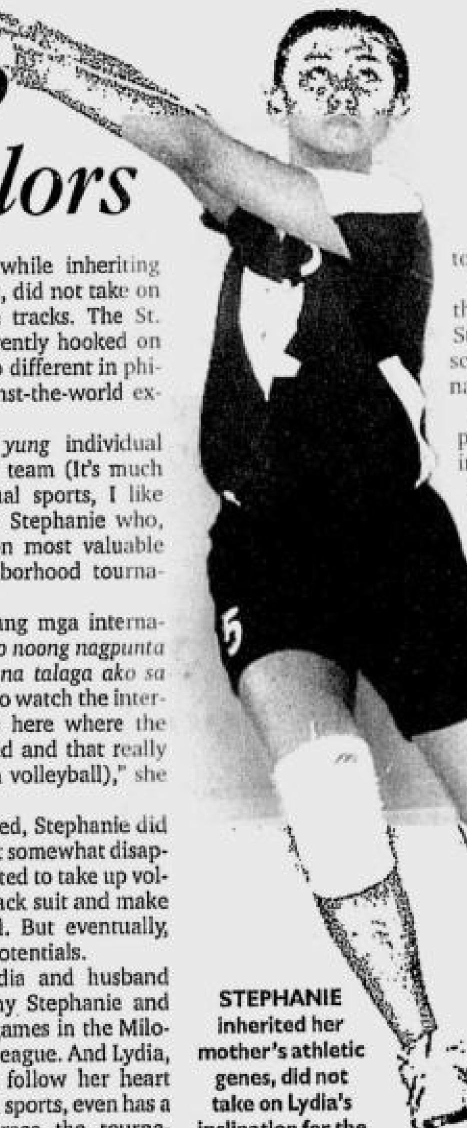
St. Bridget would not be around for the championship battles, much to Stephanie's disappointment. Her school lost to St. Mary's in the semifinals.

Still, her parents' assurance and support keep Stephanie working harder to improve her craft, especially since she has grand plans when it comes to her future in the sport.

"I want to be a national team member in the future," said the 5-foot-6 spiker. "Next year, I will take up sports medicine at UST, where I hope I can play with the varsity volleyball team there."

She's even taking care of the academic part of her plans—although she claims to be just an average student, she's careful enough to avoid failing grades. She's careful enough, too, not to become too overconfident with her game, knowing it will take years of practice to get to where she wants to.

That's something her mother can certainly pass on to her.



STEPHANIE inherited her mother's athletic genes, did not take on Lydia's inclination for the tracks.

WNCAA finals today in Legazpi

WOMEN athletes from seven regions gather for three days in Legazpi City as the 3rd WNCAA National Championship Games unfold today in three separate venues.

The basketball, volleyball and badminton championships are up for grabs among teams from the National Capital Region, Bicol, Calabarzon, Central Luzon, Cordillera Autonomous Region, Visayas and Mindanao.

NCR-A and Bicol-A clash at 1 p.m. in basketball and volleyball at the Albay Astrodome and Divine Word College of Legaspi gym, respectively.

Badminton action opens at the Powerplay Badminton Center with the Cordillera-Bicol A tussle, also at 1 p.m.

The 2nd Men's National Collegiate Athletic Association (MNCAA) will also be launched after WNCAA national president Vivian Manila declares the National Championship Games open.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal, Philippine Sports Commission officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez and Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzales will deliver messages

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EMPIRE King with Jeffrey Ladiana aboard (foreground) zooms in front of a fading Cover Girl, ridden by Jonathan Hernandez, in the homestretch to take the Freedom Cup race at the San Lazaro Leisure Park. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

FREEDOM CUP DUEL

Empire King gets back at Cover Girl

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

FOR Empire King, winning the 2005 Freedom Cup on unfamiliar track was sweet. But beating Cover Girl at the same time was even sweeter.

The 4-year-old colt finally strode like the champion horse of 2004 that he is at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, yesterday, outkicking Cover Girl down the stretch to exact revenge over the filly who had shamed him at the same venue two weeks ago.

"*Nakabawi rin kay* Cover Girl. *Talagang kundisyon siya* (We got back at Cover Girl at last. He's indeed in tip-top shape)," said Jeffrey Ladiana, commending his mount after the 1,750-meter event disputed in sweltering afternoon heat.

The expected showdown between Empire King and Cover Girl shaped up at the top of the stretch after both horses swooped past American Woman.

Cover Girl, handled by Jonathan Hernandez, darted from the inner rail to take command while Ladiana muscled Empire King five wide to gain ample breathing room on the outside.

It looked like Cover Girl would pull off another escape act just like in the "Karera Para sa Puso" but Empire King, flashing the same razor-sharp form that gave him the Philracom Open victory a week ago, responded strongly to Ladiana's left-handed whipping to scoot past Cover Girl and cross the line a full length ahead.

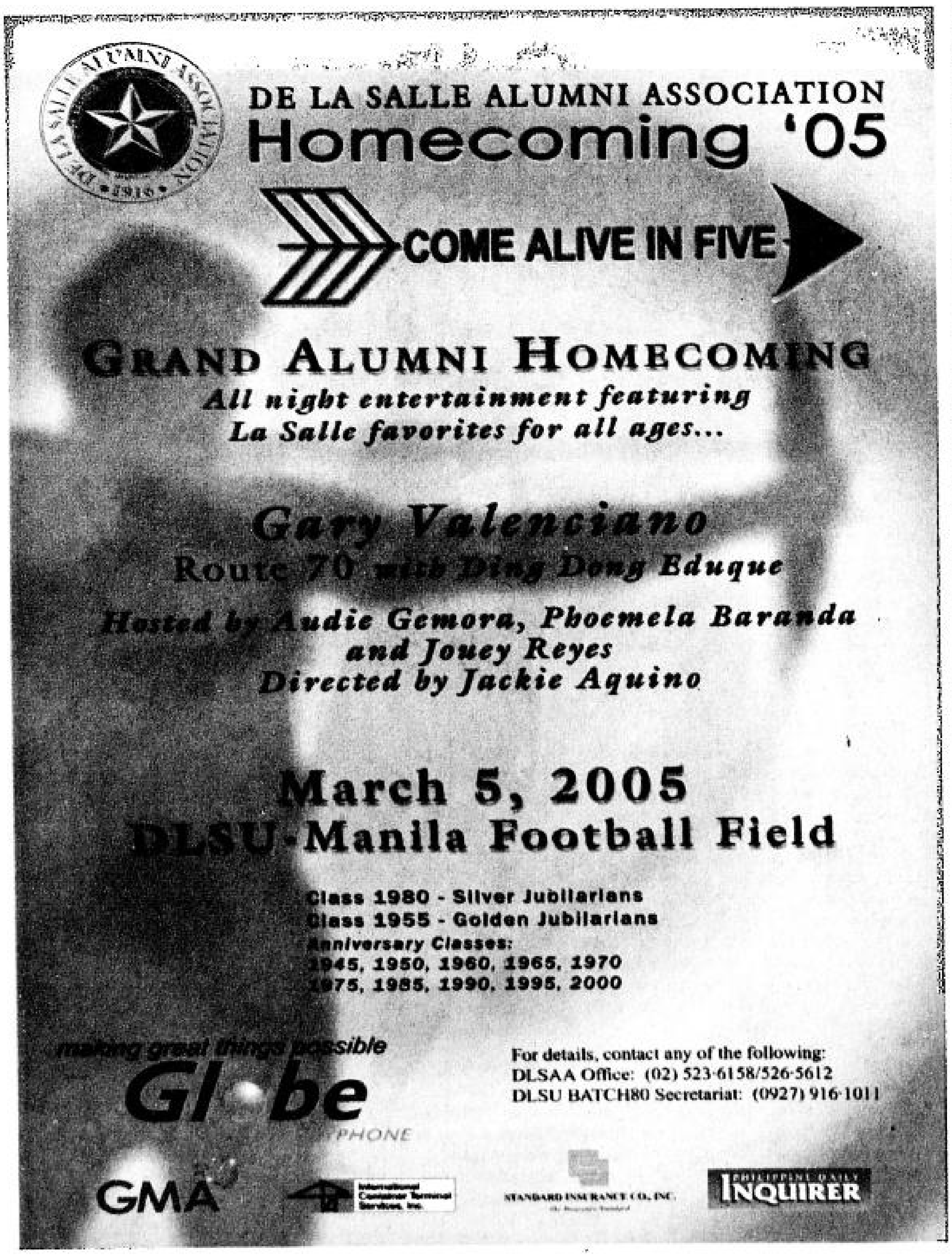
"*Medyo bawas nga manakbo sa* SLLP *pero sa ipinakita niya kanina parang nagagamayan niya na dito* (He's not so used to running at the SLLP but with the way he ran a while back, it seems that he's now beginning to like the track)," said Ladiana of his mount who covered the seldom-used route in 1:50 flat (10.5-22.5-24.5-25-27.5).

Empire King, a Perfect Halo-Carta Nueve progeny, picked up P450,000 after notching his 12th win in 20 starts thus far, while Cover Girl got P168,750, her bid for a three-straight major stakes win this year going to naught.

Aussie import Timber Eagle came from nowhere to finish third followed by Flying Princess, defending champion Free Wind, American Woman, Midnight Star, Stowaway Lass, Moab, Marque, Chariot of Fire and Perfect Storm.

American Woman broke away from the field as Free Wind tried to apply early pressure. Empire King was well placed at third, while Hernandez gave Cover Girl the rail to save ground at fourth spot.

Although American Woman stayed afront up to the home turn, there was no denying Empire King and Cover Girl would conjure up another exciting duel up to the finish.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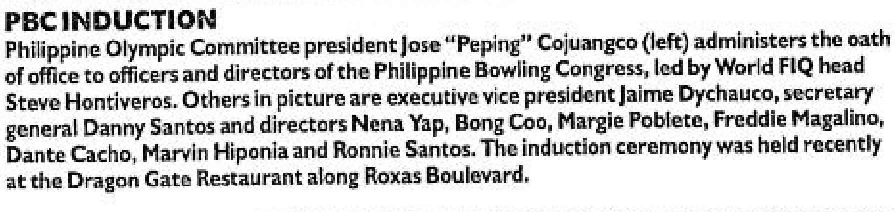
HON. JOSE "PEPING
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PBC INDUCTION
Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco (left) administers the oath of office to officers and directors of the Philippine Bowling Congress, led by World FIQ head Steve Hontiveros. Others in picture are executive vice president Jaime Dychauco, secretary general Danny Santos and directors Nena Yap, Bong Coo, Margie Poblete, Freddie Magalino, Dante Cacho, Marvin Hiponia and Ronnie Santos. The induction ceremony was held recently at the Dragon Gate Restaurant along Roxas Boulevard.

Far Eastern sweeps UAAP athletics meet

FAR EASTERN University shrugged off its underdog tag to run away with the men's and women's athletics titles of the 67th UAAP season.

The Tamaraws, behind favorites La Salle and University of the East in the pre-season, booked gold medal victories in long jump, 10,000 meters, 3,000m steeplechase, decathlon, 5,000m, 4x100-meter relay and 1,500m to rule the men's division.

With 225 points, the Tamaraws hardly met stiff resistance and went on to improve on their third-place finish last season, thereby relegating La Salle from titlist to second place this season with 176 points, and UE from runner-up to fourth with 108.

Adamson squeezed in at third in the men's division with 123 points. Ateneo was at fifth with 88, UST had 86 and UP 35 in the athletics competitions staged for four days ending on Sunday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

In the women's division, the Lady Tamaraws also clinched the crown with 257 points built around gold medals in 11 events.

FEU, also third last year in the women's side, amassed 248 points. Season 66 champion UE slipped to No. 2. with 248 and UST was third with 171.

Rounding out the women's order of finish were La Salle fourth with 119, Ateneo fifth with 20, UP sixth with 18 and Adamson seventh with 15.

FEU also raked in the most individual awards with track specialist Nelbert Ducusin earning the Most Valuable Player trophy for track and sharing the accolade with field MVP Arniel Ferrera of Ateneo.

A sweep by the Lady Tamaraws of the women's MVP titles came with Sharon Gizmundo in the track events and Annabele Sioson in the field.

UST, however, was overpowering in the juniors. The Tiger Cubs retained the overall athletics title with an amazing 380 points. Ateneo was second with 186, followed by UP 139, UE 41, La Salle 33 and Adamson 15.

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Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

Hollywood holds its breath in final hours of Oscar voting

By Marc Lavine

HOLLYWOOD— Hollywood held its breath as the race for the Oscars entered its final stage with the closure of voting for cinema's top prize, leaving the fate of the golden statuettes in the hands of auditors.

The 5,808 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences had until 5:00 pm Tuesday (0100 GMT Wednesday) to select the names of their favourite stars and movies to influence the outcome of this year's awards.

"It's over," said Academy communications director John Pavlik. "Those ballots that were not received by PriceWaterHouse Coopers by 5 p.m. will be set aside and will not be counted."

Winners

The secret ballots will be stored in a secure area where three auditors will begin tallying the votes, determining the winners and preparing the famed envelopes to be opened on stage during the Oscars ceremony.

The winners of the 77th annual Academy Awards in 24 categories will be announced at a glittering show starting at 5 p.m. on Sunday night (0100 GMT Monday).

Legendary director Martin Scorsese's movie, "The Aviator," the life story of US billionaire Howard Hughes, goes into the awards armed with a leading 11 nominations including best picture, best director and best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio.

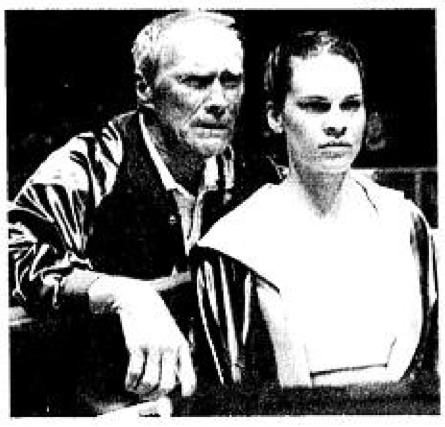
But, while the spectacular film started out as the favorite to win the coveted best picture and best director awards, as well as several other statuettes, awards pundits say it has suffered a last-minute setback.

It is locked in a ruthless bout with Hollywood legend Clint Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby," about a determined female boxer played by Hilary Swank, which has punched its way to the front of the competition for the best picture, best actress and best director.

Previous Oscar-winner Eastwood and Scorsese, who has never won an Academy Award, are also duking it out for the coveted best director's statuette.

Favorite

Swank is heavily-tipped as the favorite for best actress, but she faces intense competition from Hollywood queen Annette Bening for her role in "Being Julia." Awards watchers predict that both "Aviator" and "Baby" could snag around five Oscars each, but say that Eastwood's film is likely to be the focus of attention at the Oscars show. *AFP*



EASTWOOD AND SWANK. Top contenders for best director and best actress, respectively.

BUBLÉ. Dabbles in songwriting in latest album.

Time for Bublé's star to shine

By Rito P. Asilo

WHEN singing sensation Michael Bublé's self-titled debut album was released in 2003, it took more than a year to reach its peak on Billboard's Top 200—at No. 47!

Despite this not-too-impressive showing at the charts, however, the Canadian crooner's standard-and-jazz compilation has since proven its remarkable legs: To date, it has sold more than three million copies worldwide...and counting!

Sure, the singer's repertoire may not be the top musical preference of the recording industry's prime demographic targets (teenagers and young adults), but Bublé and mentor David Foster are unperturbed. They want longevity, not a temporary dash of flash.

Generations

In an interview with Undercover magazine, Michael eloquently explains: "A beautiful song transcends generations—whether it's written in 1930 or 2003."

Bublé's latest album, the slickly-produced "It's Time," revisits familiar territory. But, this time, the singer hints at his refusal to get boxed into one musical genre. So, you will hear an ample mix of songs that narrows gaps among jazz, standards, pop, blues, even country—although the general sound is still of the pop-jazz variety.

The 13-track album boasts of familiar but not overly popular songs, and is bookended by tunes that showcase the singer's versatility: The roguishly sexy "Feeling Good" ("It's a new dawn, a new day, a new life for me/ And I'm feeling good") and, arguably the album's best remake, "You and I," Stevie Wonder's lyrically simple but melodically rich love song, which features Bublé at his charming best.

Insightful vocals

Aside from having Foster on its team to guarantee technical polish, "It's Time" widely benefits from its biggest asset—Bublé's smooth, insightful vocals and the singer's aptitude for entertaining his audience. The album is a veritable vocal "smoothfest" that will move and groove its listeners. The singer's raspy rendition of "Try a Little Tenderness" builds up into a climax before he croons his last notes in a sensual whimper.

The album sustains interest by rendering unconventional arrangements for well-revered classics: John Lennon and Paul McCartney's "Can't Buy Me Love" gets a big-band treatment. The Dozier and Holland classic, "How Sweet It Is," turns bluesy as it glides on the chug-chugging groove of the steam train in the background.

If you loved Buble's catchy "Sway," you'll get a kick out of his covers of "Save the Last Dance For Me" and Gershwin's "A Foggy Day (In London Town)."

His sweet and leisurely genre-busting collaboration with alternative pop-rock princess Nelly Furtado in "Cuando, Cuando, Cuando" is irresistible.

When "It's Time" debuted on the US charts early this month, it went straight to No. 7, a far cry from his first album's best finish at 47th place!

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Downey recounts struggle with drugs on 'Oprah'

By Noelani Torre

WHEN he was growing up, said Robert Downey Jr., drugs were "a staple like rice." The actor dropped that little bomb of a statement—along with other revelations about his controversial lifestyle—in (where else?) an interview with Oprah Winfrey.

"Oprah" is the ideal venue for revelations, especially if they're of the life-changing variety. And though quite a few of Ms. Winfrey's shows have been known to end in tears, the mawkishness is alleviated by the sincerity of her reactions, and by an ever-present sense of humor.

DOWNEY. "It's easy to embrace helplessness when things seem insurmountable."

Good television

It isn't hard to see why the show and its host have become so beloved over the past 10 or so years—add interesting guests like Downey in the mix, and you've got at least an hour's worth of good television.

The 39-year-old actor was the main guest in a recent episode where we watched him extol the virtues of a drug-free life, and smooch with fiancée Susan Levin.

Downey's drug addiction and the problems it engendered have long kept him in the public eye and, as he revealed, this complicated the problems. Everything in his life, he said, was being analyzed "in such a public way."

Ever since he was first arrested, stories of his drug addiction and other misdemeanors have been circulating in the press.

Lowest point

"My lowest point," he told Oprah, "was when I realized I was going to do time." He was sentenced to three years in prison for his repeated violations of parole, though that didn't seem to faze him, careerwise—he was still making movies even then.

Downey, Jr. has long been famous for his wit and idiosyncratic personality, both of which were clearly evident when he appeared on "Oprah."

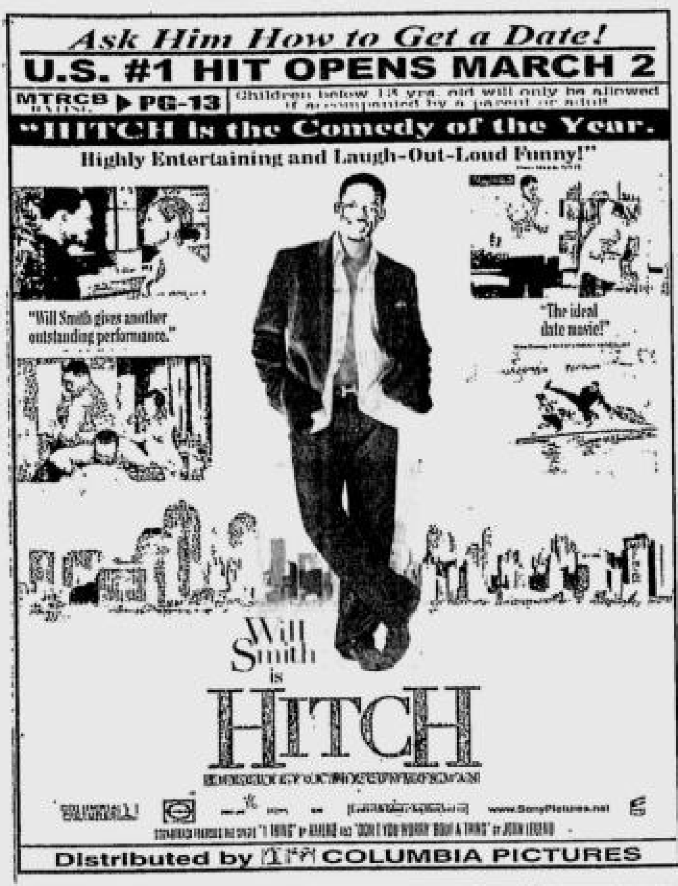
When asked about whether he remembered the infamous incident of his having been found riding naked in his Porsche, he exclaimed: "Absolutely! It was a blast." He had a lot of serious things to say, however, about drug addiction and his own slow, arduous recovery.

Process

"It's a process," he said. "A lot of people went to great lengths to help me," he said, recounting how Sean Penn kicked his door down to get him back into rehab, and how Jodie Foster sat him down and rang a peal over his head.

As for the habit itself, he had this to say: "Anything that you attempt to control is something you have a problem with. It's easy to embrace helplessness when things seem insurmountable."

In the end, he had to make a decision: "I'm not cool," he told an approving audience, "and I don't want to be anymore!"



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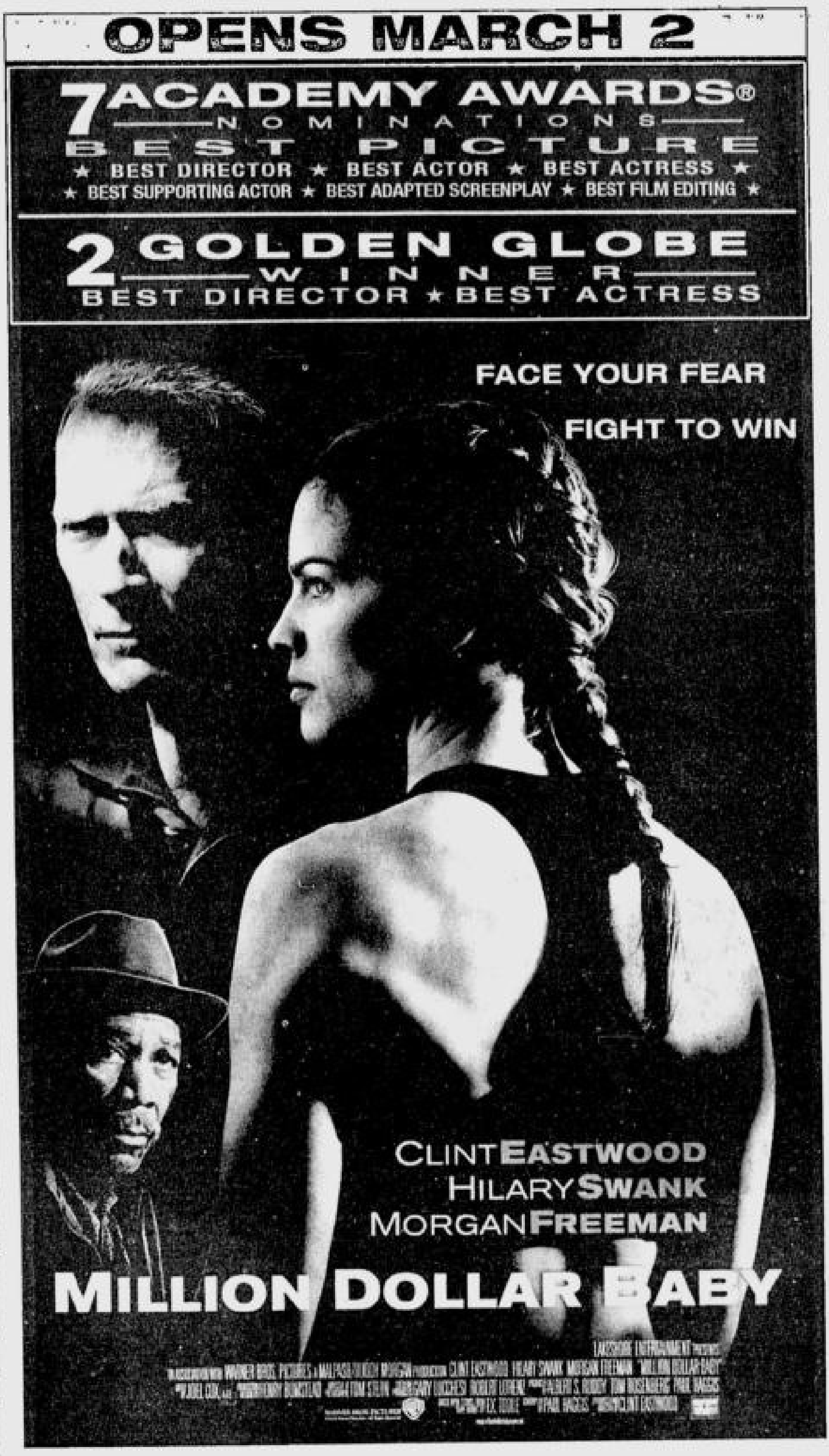

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Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 (DTS) CONSTANTINE
4 RAISING STRIPE
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 (DTS) ALFIE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DOLBY) MAD HOUSE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 CONSTANTINE
3 NIGHT JOB

MARKET! MARKET! Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 WHITE NOISE
3 RESERVED
4 MAD HOUSE

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470
1 SOON TO OPEN

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 CONSTANTINE
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 (DTS) ELEKTRA

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 MEET THE FOCKERS

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CONSTANTINE
5 NIGHT JOB

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 INFECTION
2 NIGHT JOB
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 DREAMBOY
5 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
6 SON OF THE MASK

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
2 RESERVED

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BULLETS
2 NIGHT JOB
3 PUNLA
4 (DTS) SIDEWAYS
Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
2 RAISING STRIPE
3 (DTS) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 DREAMBOY
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION
4 RAISING STRIPE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 NIGHT JOB
2 SON OF THE MASK

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center
Entertainment Guide
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway Cineplex 10 The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION • P120 RESERVED SEATS
THE AVIATOR 12:10 / 3:30 / 6:50 / 10:05
SON OF THE MASK 12:50 / 3:35 / 6:20 / 9:05
SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
INFECTION 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
RAY - LIFE STORY OF RAY CHARLES 1:30 / 6:50
LET THE LOVE BEGIN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
CONSTANTINE 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 12:15 / 3:20 / 6:25 / 9:30
SHALL WE DANCE 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
SIDEWAYS 4:15 / 9:35
ALI MALL CINEMAS
① THE AVIATOR 1:00 / 4:25 / 7:50
② CONSTANTINE 11:20 / 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
③ SON OF THE MASK 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
④ SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
⑤ LET THE LOVE BEGIN 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
ALL FEATURES AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE FOR VERIFICATION, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
CENTER EVENTS
GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 — Free Movie Pass for every P400 purchase at Taco Bell promo runs up to March 24, 2005
ARANETA COLISEUM — Fire Dance Spectacular upto February 27; Jars of Clay: Show You Love March 2
GATEWAY MALL — Folded & Hung End Of Season Sale up to 70% off until Feb. 28
COLISEUM CIRCLE — Cool Jazz, Cool Classics every Fridays & Saturdays
SHOPWISE STRIP — Acoustic Performances at Gloria Jeans February 26
NOW OPEN
Le Coeur De France Upper Ground Floor, Ali Mall
Rustan's Dept. Store Upper Ground Floor, Level 2 & 3, Gateway Mall
Italianni's, Cafe Havana, Cafe Adriatico Ground Floor / Cibo Level 2, Gateway Mall
Superbowl Of China & Food Express Level 3, Gateway Mall
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

PLDT N D D
Sangkatutak Na Saya No.5

EXTENDED!

UP TO MARCH 11, 2005

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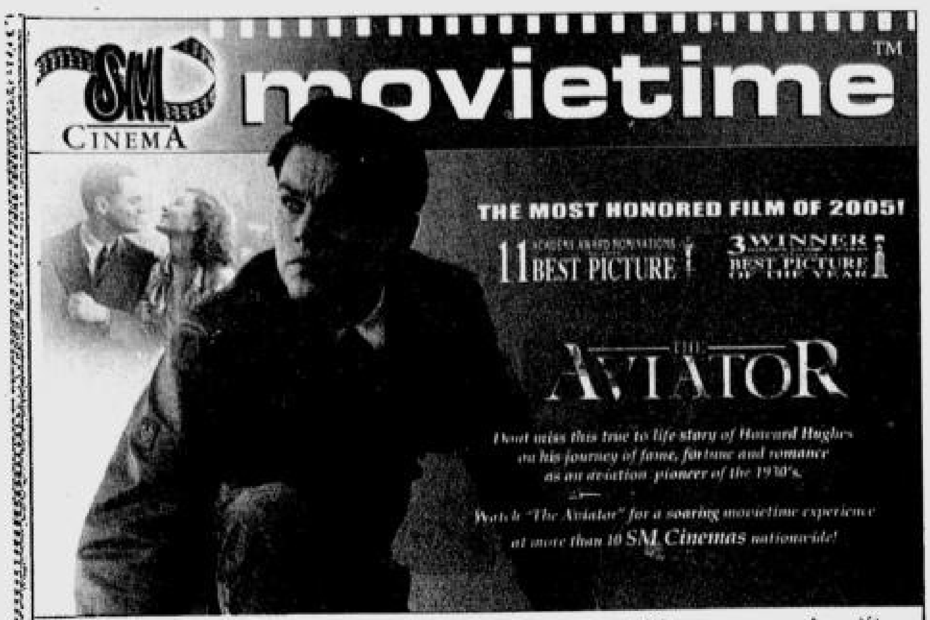
SM CINEMA movietime™


THE MOST HONORED FILM OF 2005!
11 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE
3 WINNER BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR
THE AVIATOR
Don't miss this true to life story of Howard Hughes on his journey of fame, fortune and romance as an aviation pioneer of the 1930's.
Watch "The Aviator" for a soaring movietime experience at more than 10 SM Cinemas nationwide!

OPENS THIS WEEK

smcinema EXCLUSIVE

SON OF MASK MTRCB Rating: G
INFECTION MTRCB Rating: PG 13
LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS MTRCB Rating: G
THE AVIATOR MTRCB Rating: PG
LOVE ME IF YOU DARE MTRCB Rating: R13

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING, SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA
CALL NOW 833-9999
CLICK AWAY www.smcinema.com

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema
1. LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 12:00 FS/12:30 MF/2:50/5:10/7:30 9:20 LFS / 9:50 LMF / 11:40 END
2. THE AVIATOR 11:40 FS/ 12:30 MF / 3:15 / 6:25 9:15 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 12:30 END
☎ 633-8976

sm megamall cinema 1
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
12:20 FS / 12:50 MF / 3:45 / 6:40 9:00 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 12:00 END
☎ 633-1901

sm cebu cinema 1
ANASTACIA STAGE PLAY
☎ (032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 THE AVIATOR
5 INFECTION
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 ELEKTRA
8 DREAMBOY
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 CONSTANTINE
11 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
12 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city fairview
1 INFECTION
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 ELEKTRA
4 CONSTANTINE
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 THE AVIATOR
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 SON OF THE MASK
9 DREAMBOY
10 MEET THE FOCKERS
11 SHALL WE DANCE
12 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

sm city north edsa
1 DREAMBOY
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 INFECTION
5 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
6 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
7 CONSTANTINE
8 THE AVIATOR

sm city manila
1 THE AVIATOR
2 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 SON OF THE MASK
6 CONSTANTINE
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
9 INFECTION
10 DREAMBOY
11 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
12 CONSTANTINE

sm city sta. mesa
1 SON OF THE MASK
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 THE AVIATOR
4 DREAMBOY
5 CONSTANTINE
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
9 INFECTION
10 ELEKTRA

sm city southmall
1 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 CONSTANTINE
7 DREAMBOY
8 THE AVIATOR
9 CONSTANTINE
10 INFECTION

sm city bicutan
1 THE AVIATOR
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 CONSTANTINE

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 THE AVIATOR
4 SON OF THE MASK

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
3 CONSTANTINE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 THE AVIATOR
6 RAISE YOUR VOICE

sm city baguio
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2 CONSTANTINE
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

sm city batangas
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 CONSTANTINE
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE

sm city dasmariñas
1 INFECTION
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 CONSTANTINE

sm city marilao
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 RACING STRIPES
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

sm city bacoor
1 DREAMBOY
2 INFECTION
3 SON OF THE MASK
4 THE AVIATOR
5 CONSTANTINE
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

sm city lucena
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 MADHOUSE
4 DREAMBOY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 MUSICAL PUPPET SHOW
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
5 DREAMBOY
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 CONSTANTINE

sm city iloilo
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 RESERVED
3 WITHOUT A PADDLE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 CONSTANTINE
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
7 RESERVED
8 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city davao
1 CONSTANTINE
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 RACING STRIPES
5 DREAMBOY
6 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city cagayan de oro
1 CONSTANTINE
2 ALFIE
3 RACING STRIPES
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL! DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF! VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

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Catch the #1 Smash Hit from France exclusively at SM Cinema

An entire life to say "I LOVE YOU" 80 years to starts a love story... All that because of a game... Sophia & Julien made up the rules of the game and they will be for the rest of their life its referee...and often its victims. "Dare it or not!" "Dare it! of course!" they are capable of doing everything forbidden, brave all authorities, laugh, hurt each other... Daring to do anything except maybe to admit they love each other.

DARE TO SEE THIS FILM!
free LOVE ME IF YOU DARE car sticker to be given away at SM North Edsa

WICKEDLY DELICIOUS
Love me if you dare.... Are you game?
love me if you dare
MTRCB RATING: R13

POWER PLANT CINEMA PRESENTS ANOTHER OSCAR NOMINEE

11 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE
3 WINNER BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR
LEONARDO DiCAPRIO
AVIATOR

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
Voted Best Movie Theater -Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2004 Yearend Reader Survey
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 LEMONY SNICKET'S: (Series of Unfortunate Events) 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 PG-13
2 THE AVIATOR 12:20, 3:50, 7:20, 10:50 PG-13
3 CONSTANTINE 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13
4 MASK 2: SON OF THE MASK 10:40, 1:05, 3:35 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

SON OF THE MASK GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	CONSTANTINE PG13 12:00,2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20	LEMONY SNICKET'S UNFORTUNATE EVENTS GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
AVIATOR PG13 11:40,2:55,6:10,9:30	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13 12:30,3:20,6:10,9:00	AVIATOR PG13 12:30,3:50,7:10,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS star ALABANG	starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No. 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Let The Love Begin	1 Infection	1 Blade Trinity
4 Constantine	2 Night Job	2 Reserved
5 Night Job	3 Let The Love Begin	
	4 Dreamboy	
	5 Constantine	
	6 Son of the Mask	

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase
For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented! DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 SON OF THE MASK 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:10 GP
CINEMA 2 AVIATOR 10:50, 2:15, 5:40, 9:05 PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
FEB. 25, 2005 BAND DEEP SOUTH, DURESS 8:00PM
FEB 26 2005 BAND SOLD GROUND 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 SON OF THE MASK MTRCB (GP) 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF
2 LEMONY SNICKET'S A Series of Unfortunate Events MTRCB (GP) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF
3 AVIATOR MTRCB (PG - 13) 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30 LMF
4 CONSTANTINE MTRCB (PG - 13) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MTRCB (PG-13) 12:15, 3:10, 6:05, 9:00 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special Treats
Enjoy a 20% discount on Matinee Show tickets at the Cineplex, except on selected blockbuster movies.
From Monday to Friday: all Matinee Shows' screenings are scheduled before 4pm. For more details, please see the film listing at the Shang Cineplex ticket booths or call 633 2227 or 633 7851 local 171.
*Enjoy Sweet Cinema Treats at the Shang Cinebar
FREE Nestle Kitkat for every P150.00 in accumulated receipts, same day purchase of food and any Nestle drinks at the Shang Cinebar
FREE Nestle Kitkat for Premiere Theatre patrons (1 per patron).
Promo runs from February 7-28, 2005.
*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-072 Series of 2005
Regular Ticket Price
Premiere Theatre - P295
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Shangri-La Plaza

BANDE. Performances at Merk's and Quisine.

SNACK holds voice camp April 1-3

"DIVO AT DIVA," a three-day voice camp, will be held by SNACK Arts on April 1 - 3, 8am-5pm, at Mowelfund, QC, for teeners aged 13-19. SNACK (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids) under talent manager/ camp director Bibsy Carballo has held children's camps since 1998.

MONTAGE

Conducting the workshop is Fairy Lee Lui, a former Madrigal singer and UP graduate of choral conducting, voice and piano. Guest lecturers include actor Bodjie Pascua for musical theater; Ivy Violan on pop singing and joining competitions; and English professor/actor Richard Signey on the spoken word vs. the sung word. (Call 721-0801, 726-7164 or 0917 899-1835.)

A graduation concert showcase will be directed by Prof. Manolet Garcia on April 3 at 7 p.m.

Hangad to launch Easter album

A series of free concerts will mark the launching of "The Easter Journey," the new album of Hangad, a musical group of students and young professionals under the Jesuit Music Ministry. The first concert will be held on Feb. 27, 7 p.m. at the Ateneo de Manila University campus.

Other concerts will be held at St. Cecilia's Hall in St. Scholastica's College, Manila, at 7 p.m. on March 4, and at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish church in Rio Vista Subd., Sabang, Baliuag, Bulacan, at 3pm on March 20.

"The Easter Journey" is Hangad's fourth album. Orders may be made online at www.eaglecorner.com.

Visit www.hangad.com or call 426-1023.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Feb. 26 at 3:10 p.m., "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom." Feb. 27 at 4:15 p.m., "The Remains of the Day." 8 p.m., "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King." 1:25 a.m., "Clueless." Feb. 28 at 1 p.m., "About Schmidt."

On Cinemax, Feb. 26 at 11:30 a.m., "The Godfather." 9 p.m., "Ironweed." Feb. 27 at 11 a.m., "Mad Dog and Glory." 3 p.m., "Empire of the Sun." 9 p.m., "Unforgiven." 11:10 p.m., "Flashdance." Feb. 28 at 10:15 a.m., "Dead in the Water."

Acoustic nights with Dawn

Enjoy acoustic nights with guitar girl Dawn Bande at Merk's and Quisine. Dawn sings Fridays at 5:30 p.m. Happy Hour at Merk's Bar Bistro, and T-TH-S at 6:30 p.m. at Quisine, 6750 Ayala ave.

British Council marks 25th year

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR 25 years now, the British Council has been operating in the Philippines, dedicated to enhancing educational and cultural ties between the United Kingdom and this country. We congratulate the Council for promoting cultural understanding and interaction, by way of imaginative and productive activities in the arts, education, English language teaching, etc.

We were introduced to the British Council when we studied in England on a Colombo Plan scholarship. In the course of our studies in educational television at the Center for ETV in London, we got to befriend a British Council official who gave us performance passes to some of the best shows on the West End.

Grateful

That long exposure to exceptional productions did a lot to expand our artistic horizons, and we were grateful to the British Council for that service.

The next time that the Council helped us was when the Inquirer sent us to London to cover the opening of "Miss Saigon." Trouble was, we had to leave right away to make it in time for opening night, so we needed to fast-track the processing of our travel papers, visa, etc.

We turned to the British Council for help, and we were amazed at the instant support and assistance we got. In no time at all, we were on our way to London, and even arrived early enough to catch a couple of preview performances before the musical's official opening night.—Again, thanks to the Council!

You too can benefit from the British Council by participating in some of its activities during its special silver anniversary:

Ongoing until March 17 at the Product Design Center of the Philippines, the exhibition, weaving the Stories of Our Lives, showcases the works of textile designer Rebecca Von Gyer.

She worked with weaving cooperatives throughout the country in the third phase of the British Council's design residency pro-

BRITISH/ A2-6

PLDT
Sangkatutak Na Saya No.6

EXTENDED!

UP TO MARCH 11, 2005

SIGNAL NO.10

SUPER BAGYONG PROMO

UP TO 4 MONTHS FREE + FREE INSTALLATION

Nakakaloka na 'to!
Magmadali't humabol
sa sangkatutak na discount.

LANDLINE PROMOS

- For new post-paid residential at business lines, may FREE installation, up to 2 months FREE subscription, at may FREE Biloba cordless handset worth P3,000!
- FREE installation sa mga bagong Telesulit subscribers, magload lang ng P500 card.

INTERNET PROMOS

- FREE installation at may 4 months FREE subscription pa sa lahat ng new residential myDSL plans.
- May FREE premium item when you subscribe to PLDT Vibe Plan 99.
- Mag register at mag activate ng PLDT myPad account ninyo sa *www.pldtmypad.com*

Pwede pang manalo ng Centrino Laptop when you subscribe to any of the above promos.

Apply na! Available only sa PLDT OFFICES NATIONWIDE.

For more assistance
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PLDT
Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline

Abangan!

Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0887 Series of 2005. See flyers for details.

See'Mall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 CONSTANTINE	1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	1 LEMONY SNICKET'S	5 INFECTION	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 CONSTANTINE 1.15 3.45, 6.15 8.45 11.15	1 SON OF THE MASK
2 THE AVIATOR	2 THE AVIATOR	2 CONSTANTINE	6 THE AVIATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE AVIATOR 1.45 5.00, 8.15, 11.30	2 LEMONY SNICKET'S
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S	3 CONSTANTINE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 CONSTANTINE [illegible] 8.00, 10.30	7 SON OF THE MASK	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SIDEWAYS 2.35 4.45, 6.55, 9.05, 11.15	3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 INFECTION	4 SON OF THE MASK	4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 LEMONY SNICKET'S 2.10 4.30, 6.50 9.10, 11.30	4 CONSTANTINE
5 SON OF THE MASK				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE PHANTOM... 1.30 4.10 6.50; CONSTANTINE 9.30 12.00	5

GB1
GREENBELT 1

1	CONSTANTINE 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.00
2	THE AVIATOR 11.45, 3.00, 6.15, 9.30

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Toyota Car Exhibit February 24-28, 2005	Justice League February 25-27, 2005	Wellness Revo February 24-27, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LINE!

GREENBELT 3 PARK	GREENBELT 3. LOBBY
Greenbelt Alfresco Theatre Nights Coming Soon in March	Vera Wang Gown Exhibit February 17-28, 2005

Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents Busybody
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - Feb. 11,12,13,18,19,20,25,26,27

Ayala MUSEUM

Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries please call 757-7117

Family Day
SON OF THE MASK

FREE FACE PAINTING
OR BALLOON TWISTING
ON FEBRUARY 26 & 27
1:00PM -4:00PM
JUST PRESENT YOUR SON OF THE MASK MOVIE TICKET
OR A TIMEZONE STUB GIVEN FOR EVERY P200
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2 SON OF THE MASK 2
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
3 CONSTANTINE
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
4 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
11:50 2:15 4:40 7:05 9:30
5 INFECTION
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
10:40 1:35 4:30 7:25 10:00
7 FOOTSTEPS
11:50 1:50 3:50 5:50 7:50 9:50
8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
10 SIDEWAYS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CONSTANTINE
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
10:20 1:05 4:00 6:55 9:50
6 INFECTION
10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45
7 SON OF THE MASK 2
10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

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1 RAY
10:40 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
12:30 3:10 6:00 9:00
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
11:20 1:45 4:05 6:30 9:00
5 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
6 INFECTION
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
7 CONSTANTINE
10:35 1:05 3:35 6:05 8:20 10:30
8 SON OF THE MASK 2
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30

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1 CONSTANTINE
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25
2 SON OF THE MASK 2
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
3 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
10:25 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
4 INFECTION
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
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6 RESERVE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

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3 INFECTION
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Broken families

In Western countries, certain governments provide subsidies to wives and children from broken families. Partners feel it's no longer difficult to walk away from relationships. Due to this business- like approach, marriages easily collapse.

In the spiritual world, the opposite exists: Devotees are blissfully happy in their love for the Supreme Being, without wanting anything in return. This is their highest pleasure.

Jesus Christ came to this world to honor the will of the Supreme. This is unconditional love.

If we love God without conditions, we will be purified by that love. Love God without asking for anything in return! That is the real goal of our existence.

British

From page A2-4

gram with the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.

From March 1 to 5, comedienne Linda Marlowe stars in "No Fear," a one-woman performance based on her own life. The show will be staged on March 1 at the Marcelo B. Fernan Press Center in Cebu, March 3 at Silliman University in Dumaguete, and March 5 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater.

From March 5 to 26, The Shang marks Philippine-British Arts Month with "Streetscape Goes New Wave" every Saturday. Top groups led by the Rage Band play covers of UK songs which have made pop music history.

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High time for Oscars to give Scorsese his due

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Martin Scorsese directed "Mean Streets" in 1973, he served notice early on that he would be a filmmaker who wouldn't go the usual glossy Hollywood route, but would instead focus on reality. In fact, he even went beyond reality, to its violent underbelly.

In "Taxi Driver" (1976), he combined technique and emotion with a sustained visual punch. This in-your-face approach stunned people who had known him as a sickly youth who suffered from asthma and pleurisy, medical conditions that excluded him from sports, thus depriving him of close associations with other boys in his tough neighborhood.

Contemplative

In fact, he was so contemplative and withdrawn that, after grade school, he entered a seminary, intending to become a priest. But, he dropped out after one year, and instead pursued his childhood love—the movies.

He studied film at New York University, worked as an assistant director, and made a number of shorts, which won prizes at festivals.

Scorsese's early films set the pattern for much of his career's oeuvre: They were generally set in New York's Little Italy, the scene of his own youth, and had for their protagonists young Italian-Americans at odds with their seedy environment.

The emphasis was more on character development than conventional plot, and Scorsese's visual style was characterized by restless, jittery camera movement, which reflected the tensions of city life.

Critics

Viewers and critics responded well to Scorsese's very contemporary filmmaking style, and "Taxi Driver" won the grand prize at the Cannes International Film Festival.

For a change of pace, Scorsese made "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," which did well at the box office with its feminist liberation theme. "New York, New York" was Scorsese's affectionate, nostalgic tribute to the Hollywood musical of the '40s.

In "Raging Bull," he employed brutal realism and psychological intensity to depict the triumphs and failures of former middleweight boxing champion Jake La Motta. Scorsese's continuing preoccupation with the darker side of contemporary life next lead to the filming of "The King of Comedy," about an obsessively ambitious fan, who wreaks havoc while stalking a celebrity.

In "After Hours" (1985), Scorsese depicted other bizarre aspects of city life, and won the best director prize at Cannes. But, the Oscar eluded him—as it has to this day, even after four nominations.

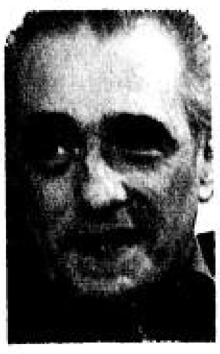
Why so? Analysts believe that Scorsese's ultra-real filmmaking style and politics don't sit well with the generally conservative members of the Hollywood establishment, especially the members of the Academy who vote in the annual Oscar derby.

Disdain

The same disdain (and envy?) was also experienced for years by Steven Spielberg, despite (or perhaps partly because of) his many hit films, until he belatedly started winning Oscars with "Schindler's List" in 1993. So, *when* will Scorsese also get his long-delayed artistic validation at the Oscars?

We hope that it will be this coming week, when the 2004 Oscars will be announced. We know that Clint Eastwood is touted to win as best director for "Million Dollar Baby," but we think it's high time that Scorsese gets his first Oscar for his similarly excellent handling of "The Aviator."

We feel that it's the right, "emotional" time for Academy voters to make up for snubbing Scorsese all these years, just like they did with Spielberg in 1993. Will we be proven right?



SCORSESE. His early films set the pattern for much of his career's oeuvre.

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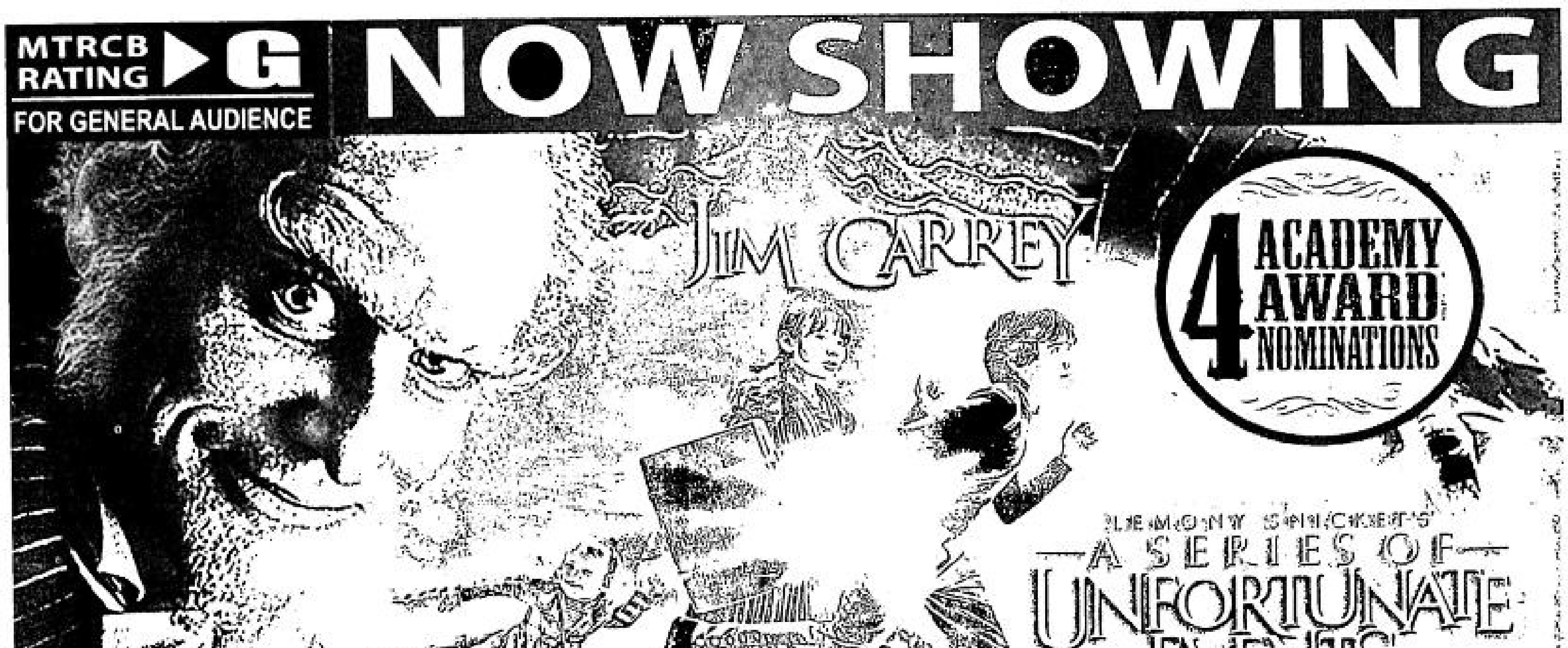
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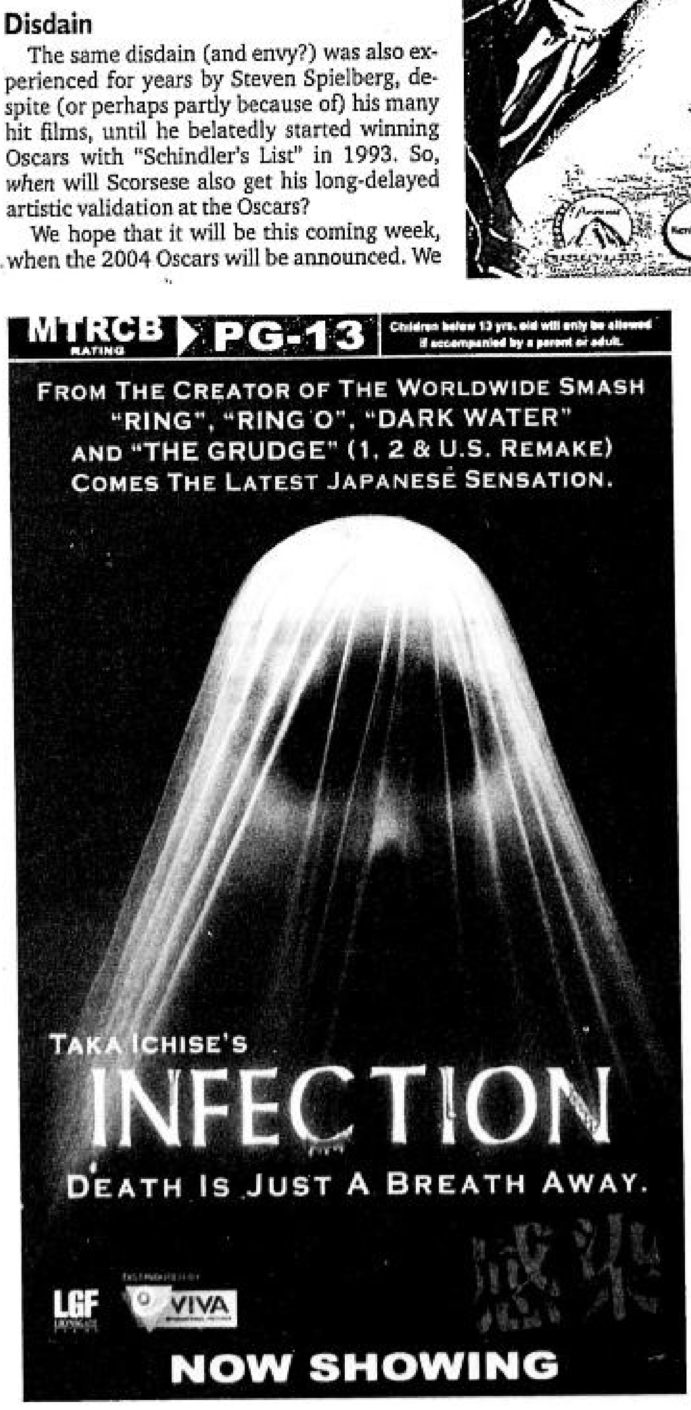
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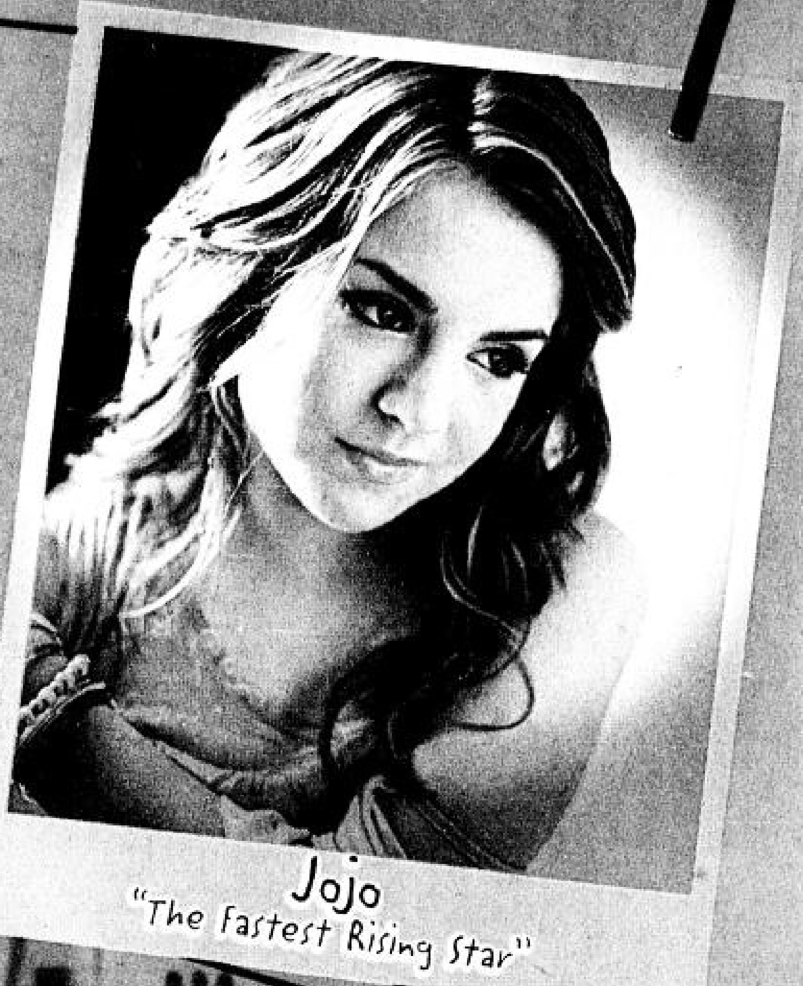
The Hottest Female Artists of 2005!



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Rumors	Lindsay Lohan	STAR7
Over	Lindsay Lohan	STAR8
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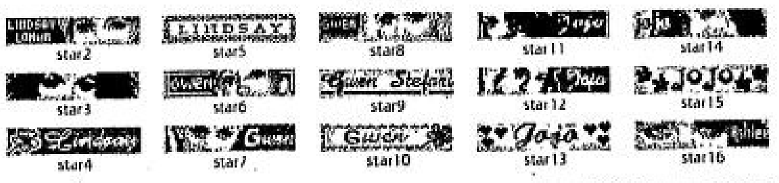

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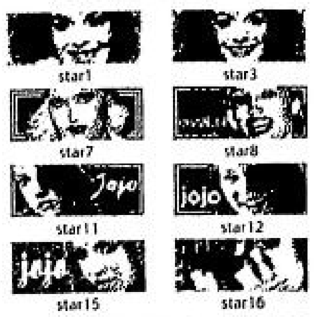

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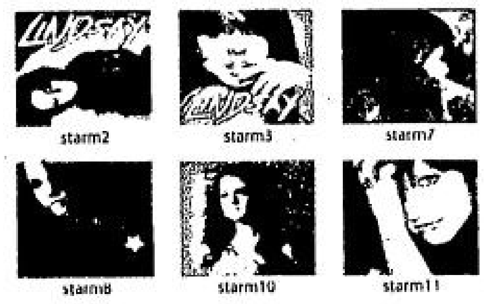

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SATURDAY Special

Jamie Foxx leads Oscar best actor race

By Nestor U. Torre

FOXX. No overnight sensation

FANS of Leonardo DiCaprio are hoping that he will win the best actor Oscar on Feb. 27 for his portrayal of Howard Hughes in "The Aviator." However, they concede that their idol faces tough competition from the relatively less well-known actor-singer, Jamie Foxx, who essays another "biographical" portrayal (as Ray Charles) in "Ray."

Foxx has the edge in the competition because Ray Charles is an even more challengingly complex character to play than the already complicated Howard Hughes. Since "degree of difficulty" is a factor in the thespic arts, it could clinch that golden statuette for Foxx.

Which is not to say that Foxx doesn't have a lot going for himself as an actor. For proof positive of his exceptional competence as a performer, he's only the second actor to ever be nominated in both the best actor and supporting actor categories (for "Collateral") in the same year!

Big waves

Now that Foxx is making such big waves in the movies, some people are describing him as an "overnight sensation." Well, nothing could be farther from the truth.

In fact, he first gained recognition as a stand-up comic and regular cast member of the madcap TV comedy-variety show, "In Living Color."

Great company

Incidentally, "ILC" also launched the performing careers of other comedy talents like Jim Carrey, Keenen Ivory Wayans and Damon Wayans, and Jennifer Lopez was a dancer in the show. So, Foxx had great company on his way to stardom!

In 1996, he was given his own program, "The Jamie Foxx Show," which became one of the most popular attractions on the WB network. During its five-year run, Foxx got nominated thrice for outstanding actor in a comedy series, and won an NAACP Image Award.

The award is given to black performers who provide a positive alternative to the generally stereotypical and downbeat projection of African-Americans in show business.

In the movies, Foxx got good reviews for his 1999 performance in the football drama, "Any Given Sunday." He went on to act with Will Smith in "Ali," for which he won another NAACP Image Award (for outstanding supporting actor in a motion picture).

Foxx's filmography also includes performances in "The Great White Hype," "Bait" and "The Truth About Cats and Dogs."

When the Ray Charles biopic was given the green light at United International Pictures, both Charles and director Taylor Hackford felt that Jamie Foxx was the best choice to play the challenging title role.

Vindicated

The actor proceeded to make sure that their faith in his ability would be completely vindicated. Aside from the usual research and character building that actors do before starting to shoot a film, Foxx immersed himself in soul, jazz and blues recordings, and attended classes at the Braille Institute.

He also spent weeks during the rehearsal and shooting phases of the production walking around with his eyes taped shut, so he would better appreciate the frustration and anger felt by blind people like Ray Charles.

Well, the extraordinary lengths that Foxx went to do justice to his challenging role have paid off with the nominations and awards that Foxx has gotten to date.

After Feb. 27, will he be adding the Academy Awards' golden statuette to the trophies that are already gracing the mantle of his fireplace at home?

DiCaprio, Foster and other movie moppets turned sensitive actors

DICAPRIO. Enjoyed considerable acclaim as child actor.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Abby Natividad: "Leonardo DiCaprio's transition from child star to serious adult actor fascinates me. Please feature child stars who have grown into sensitive performers."

When we think of child stars who have matured into good actors, a number of celebrated names come to mind, Abby. Psychologist Carl Jung once said, "Nothing has a stronger psychological influence on children than the unlived life of a parent." Indeed, a parent or guardian will always influence a child's set of values and sense of security.

Bohemian lifestyle

Who hasn't heard of the bohemian lifestyle led by the troubled Robert Downey Jr as he was growing up as a child actor? Or, the wasted brilliance of the enigmatic River Phoenix? Or, the oppressive environment that characterized superstar Macauley Culkin, or Michael Jackson's tumultuous childhood? Growing up before an adoring albeit demanding throng of followers wreaks havoc on a child's formative years. But, some Hollywood moppets do manage to avoid the pitfalls of early stardom.

Take Leonardo DiCaprio: Long before he won praise for his performance in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator" (which has so far bagged him a Golden Globe), he already enjoyed considerable acclaim for his performances as a child actor in films like "What's Eating Gilbert Grape?," "This Boy's Life" and "The Basketball Diaries."

Quirky roles

Christina Ricci, 25, is a veteran of 40 movies. At 10, she shared top billing with Cher and Winona Ryder

DICAPRIO/ A3-3

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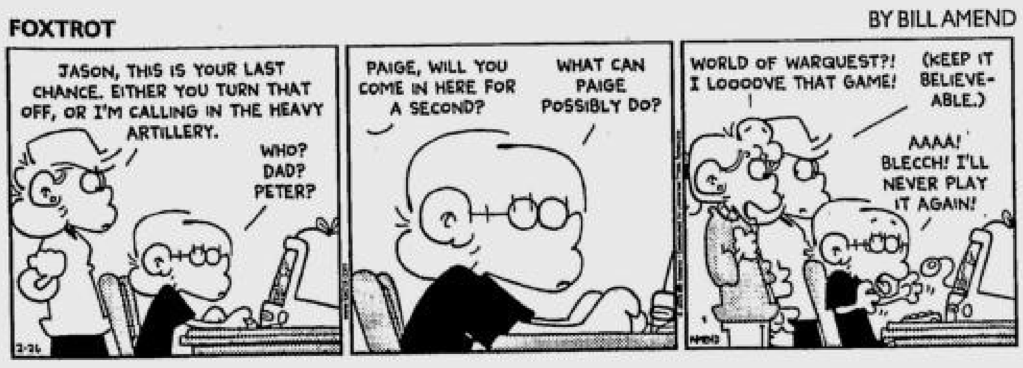
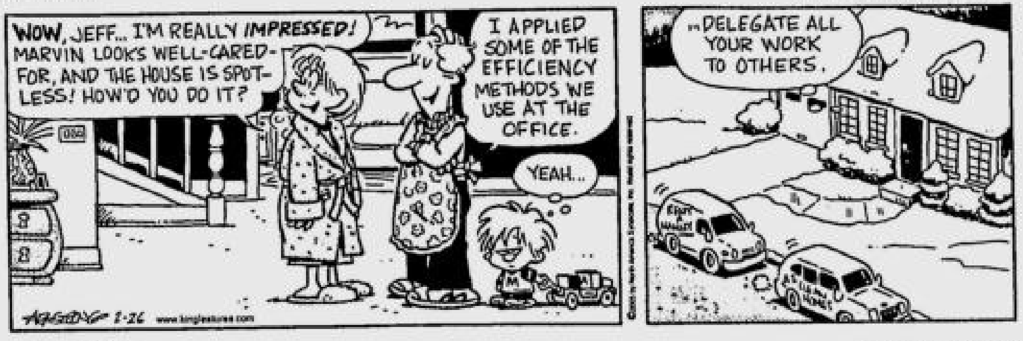

JASON, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE. EITHER YOU TURN THAT OFF, OR I'M CALLING IN THE HEAVY ARTILLERY.
WHO? DAD? PETER?
PAIGE, WILL YOU COME IN HERE FOR A SECOND?
WHAT CAN PAIGE POSSIBLY DO?
WORLD OF WARQUEST?! I LOOOOVE THAT GAME!
(KEEP IT BELIEVE-ABLE.)
AAAA! BLECCH! I'LL NEVER PLAY IT AGAIN!
2-26
AMEND

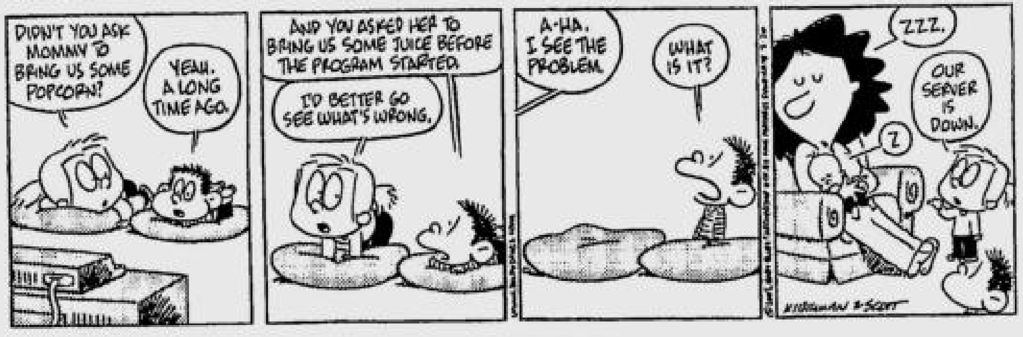
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WOW, JEFF... I'M REALLY IMPRESSED! MARVIN LOOKS WELL-CARED-FOR, AND THE HOUSE IS SPOTLESS! HOW'D YOU DO IT?
I APPLIED SOME OF THE EFFICIENCY METHODS WE USE AT THE OFFICE.
YEAH...
...DELEGATE ALL YOUR WORK TO OTHERS.
ARMSTRONG 2-26

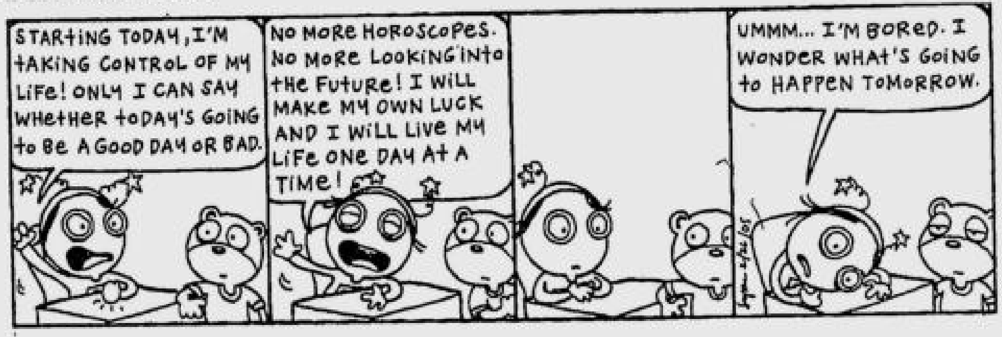
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DIDN'T YOU ASK MOMMY TO BRING US SOME POPCORN?
YEAH. A LONG TIME AGO.
AND YOU ASKED HER TO BRING US SOME JUICE BEFORE THE PROGRAM STARTED.
I'D BETTER GO SEE WHAT'S WRONG.
A-HA. I SEE THE PROBLEM.
WHAT IS IT?
ZZZ.
Z
OUR SERVER IS DOWN.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


STARTING TODAY, I'M TAKING CONTROL OF MY LIFE! ONLY I CAN SAY WHETHER TODAY'S GOING TO BE A GOOD DAY OR BAD.
NO MORE HOROSCOPES. NO MORE LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE! I WILL MAKE MY OWN LUCK AND I WILL LIVE MY LIFE ONE DAY AT A TIME!
UMMM... I'M BORED. I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TOMORROW.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're caring, sympathetic and empathetic. You sense what others feel, and you can touch others emotionally. You are very much your own individual. For these reasons, people are drawn to you. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life! Doors open to you. Opportunities are there. Go and grab them!

Birthdate of: Fats Domino, R & B singer; Johnny Cash, singer; Erykah Badu, R & B singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next few weeks, you'll find that you're in a position of self-denial. It's very easy to put the interests of others before your own. You truly care.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The month ahead beautifully blesses all your friendships and relations with groups and organizations. You find dealing with others to be pleasant and far easier than usual.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's easy to impress important people this month. Bosses, teachers and parents think you are the cat's pajamas! (You might as well milk this for all it's worth.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): In the month ahead, expect opportunities to travel for pleasure. Similarly, you might earn money connected with the media, publishing and higher education.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Good things can come to you now. Your partner can earn more money. Other people will give you gifts. Some will receive inheritances, awards and extended credit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Fair Venus has just moved opposite your sign. This enormously improves all your relationships with others. Close partnerships are warm and affectionate for the month ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Relations with co-workers will improve in the next few weeks. You'll find that people are unusually supportive of you at work. You might even earn more money in some way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Love, romance and pleasure will come your way in the next month. This is the perfect time for a vacation! Enjoy all kinds of entertaining diversions. Playful activities with children delight you.

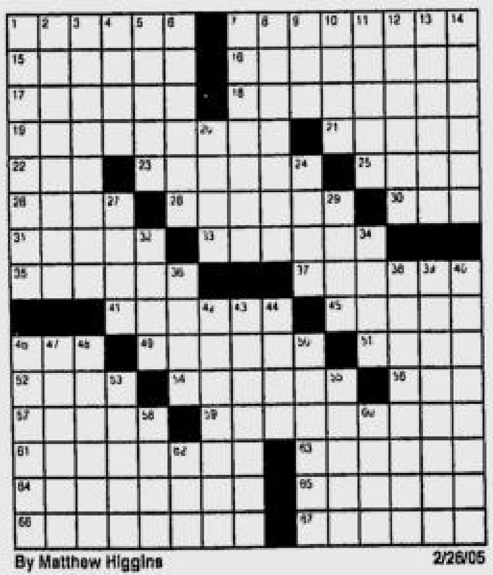
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Now is the time to decorate or fix up where you live. The month ahead is excellent for entertaining at home. Make your digs warm and cozy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You will no doubt start to notice just how much love there is in your daily life. This is rewarding. Relations with siblings are especially affectionate now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're spending money on beautiful things for yourself and loved ones now and in the next few weeks. You'll also have opportunities to earn more as well! Stay tuned.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today Venus moves into your sign. This promotes your relations with everyone. It also makes you appear more attractive to others. This is a great time to buy wardrobe items!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

2/26/05

ACROSS

1 Of the back of a tooth
7 Part
15 If
16 Harmful in effect
17 Ski
18 Bustle
19 Panamanian coin
21 Fender depressions
22 Genetic matter, briefly
23 Shipworm
25 Govern
26 Catch sight of
28 Staircase elements
30 Bishopric
31 Conical dwelling
33 Pack off to dreamland
35 Themes
37 Papal representative
41 Discuss once more
45 Part of a mailing add.
46 Toward the stern
49 Gift recipients
51 Mall happening
52 Pass out cards
54 Basic beliefs
56 Journey segment
57 Speak off the cuff
59 Reef-building coral
61 Spot on a tie, perhaps
63 Bout sites
64 Edge of the tundra
65 Cylindrical shape with tapered ends
66 Pilchards
67 Gets up

DOWN

1 Distinct
2 Outrages
3 Strong flavored liquor
4 Drawn tightly
5 Useful quality
6 Smaller one of two
7 Blue-eyed cat
8 Converted into digital form
9 Colliers' workplace
10 In the thick of
11 Mississippi or Colorado
12 Glandular sacs
13 Reveal by gossip
14 Paris palace
20 Author Murdoch
24 Spoken
27 Solar period
29 Ladder part
32 Watched
34 Prima donnas' problems
36 Worn out
38 Mother-of-pearl sources
39 Put up with
40 Critical analyses
42 Flower or sea polyp
43 Upper chambers
44 Pay attention to
46 Changes with the times
47 Rakish hat
48 Loftier
50 Layers
53 Took a shine to
55 Senegalese language
58 Neighbor of Java
60 Gilpin of "Frasier"
62 Racket

Friday's Puzzle Solved

T	R	A	P		E	L	B	A		S	Q	U	A	B
H	O	P	I		X	I	I	I		A	U	R	A	E
A	M	E	X		P	E	A	R		T	I	A	R	A
W	A	R	E	H	O	U	S	E	O	U	T	L	E	T
			L	A	N			S	L	R				
B	E	D		M	E	S	S		A	D	R	I	F	T
O	T	I	C		N	O	L	O		A	I	M	E	R
W	H	E	R	E	T	H	E	B	O	Y	S	A	R	E
L	E	G	A	L		O	D	O	R		E	M	M	A
S	L	O	W	E	D		S	E	T	I		S	I	T
				C	O	S			H	O	P			
W	E	A	R	T	H	E	T	R	O	U	S	E	R	S
A	N	W	A	R		C	H	A	D		A	R	E	A
V	O	L	V	O		T	A	C	O		L	I	N	K
E	S	S	E	N		S	T	Y	X		M	E	T	E

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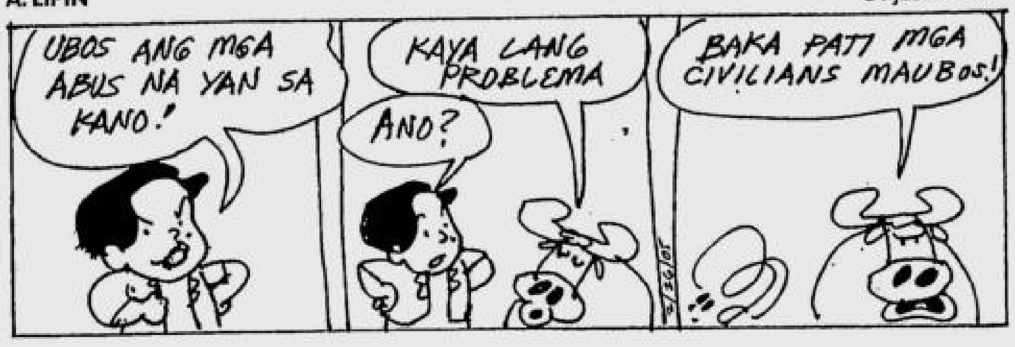
2/26/05

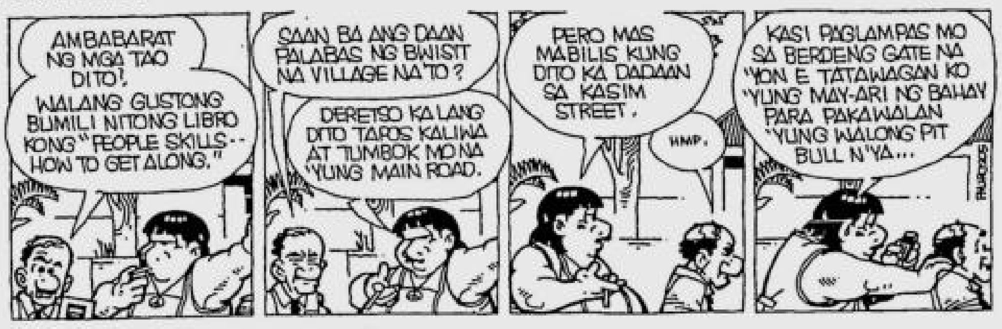
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


UBOS ANG MGA ABUS NA YAN SA KANO!
ANO?
KAYA LANG PROBLEMA
BAKA PATI MGA CIVILIANS MAUBOS!

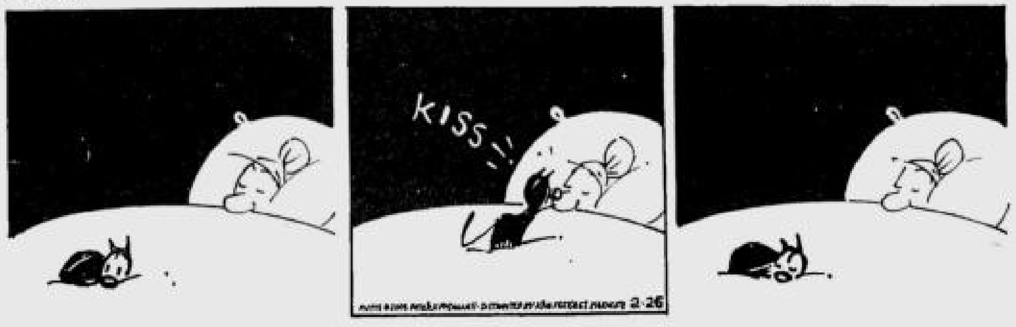
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AMBABARAT NG MGA TAO DITO!.
WALANG GUSTONG BUMILI NITONG LIBRO KONG "PEOPLE SKILLS-- HOW TO GET ALONG."
SAAN BA ANG DAAN PALABAS NG BWISIT NA VILLAGE NA 'TO?
DERETSO KA LANG DITO TAPOS KALIWA AT TUMBOK MO NA 'YUNG MAIN ROAD.
PERO MAS MABILIS KUNG DITO KA DADAAN SA KASIM STREET.
HMP.
KASI PAGLAMPAS MO SA BERDENG GATE NA 'YON E TATAWAGAN KO 'YUNG MAY-ARI NG BAHAY PARA PAKAWALAN 'YUNG WALONG PIT BULL N'YA...

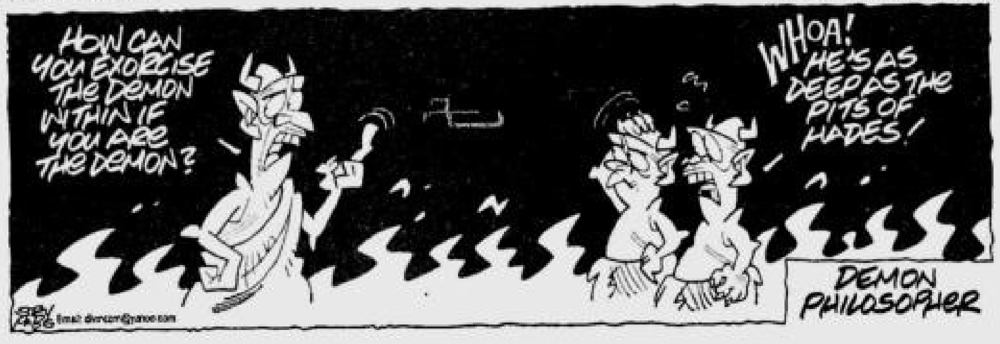
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



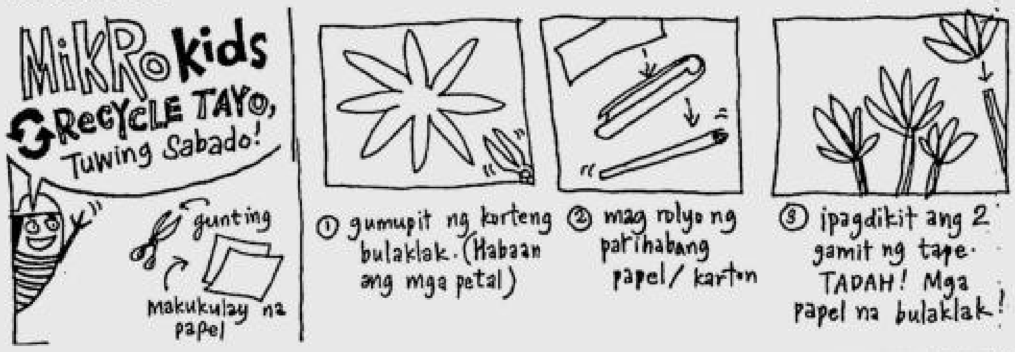
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HOW CAN YOU EXORCISE THE DEMON WITHIN IF YOU ARE THE DEMON?
WHOA! HE'S AS DEEP AS THE PITS OF HADES!
DEMON PHILOSOPHER

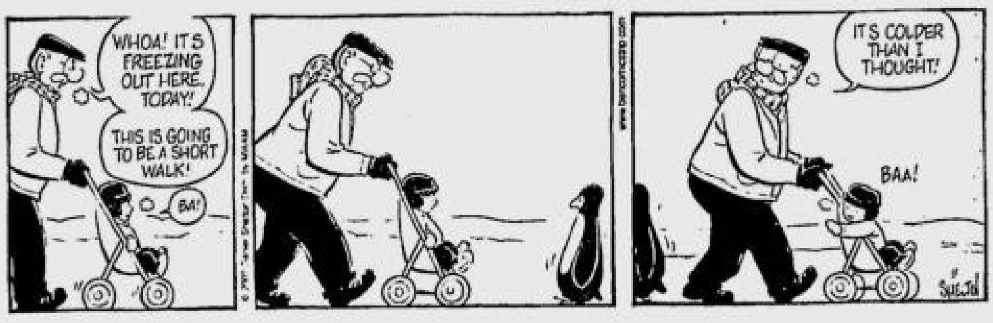
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
gunting
Makukulay na papel
① gumupit ng korteng bulaklak. (Habaan ang mga petal)
② mag rolyo ng parihabang papel/karton
③ ipagdikit ang 2 gamit ng tape. TADAH! Mga papel na bulaklak!

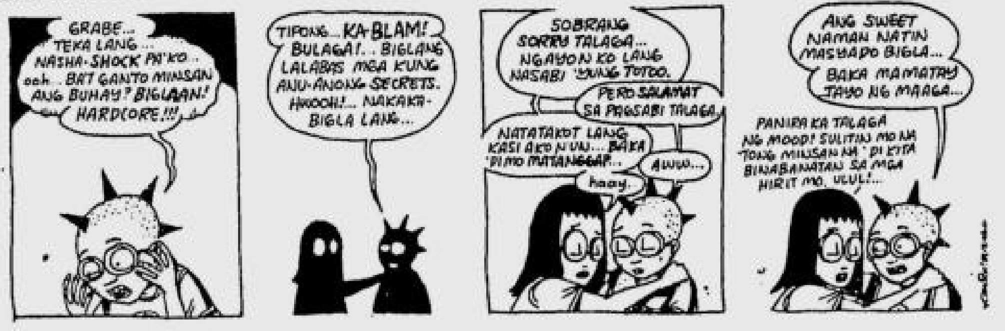
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHOA! IT'S FREEZING OUT HERE TODAY!
THIS IS GOING TO BE A SHORT WALK!
BA!
IT'S COLDER THAN I THOUGHT!
BAA!

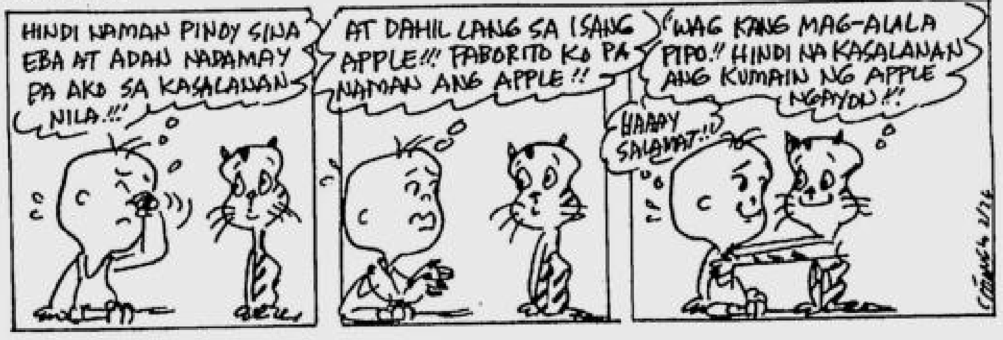
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE... TEKA LANG... NASHA-SHOCK PA'KO.. ooh.. BAT GANTO MINSAN ANG BUHAY? BIGLAAN! HARDCORE!!!
TIPONG... KA-BLAM! BULAGA!.. BIGLANG LALABAS MGA KUNG ANU-ANONG SECRETS. HOOOH!... NAKAKA-BIGLA LANG...
SOBRANG SORRY TALAGA... NGAYON KO LANG NASABI 'YUNG TOTOO.
PERO SALAMAT SA PAGSABI TALAGA.
NATATAKOT LANG KASI AKO N'UN... BAKA 'DI MO MATANGGAP...
AWWW...
haay.
ANG SWEET NAMAN NATIN MASYADO BIGLA... BAKA MAMATAY TAYO NG MAAGA...
PANIRA KA TALAGA NG MOOD! SULITIN MO NA 'TONG MINSAN NA 'DI KITA BINABANATAN SA MGA HIRIT MO, ULUL!...

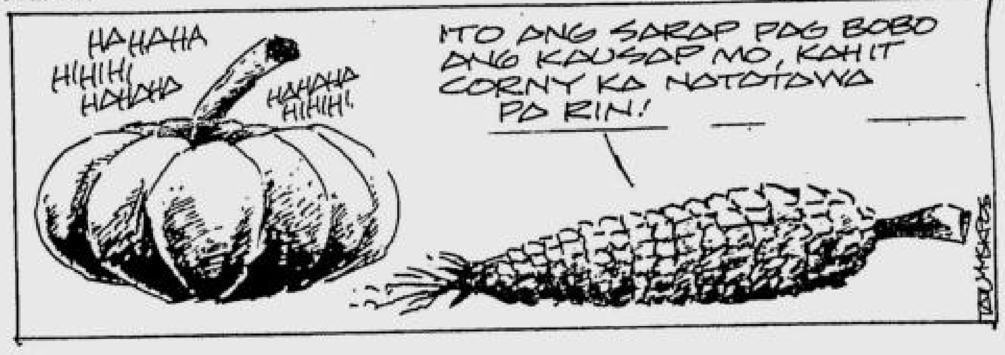
LOVEKNOTS

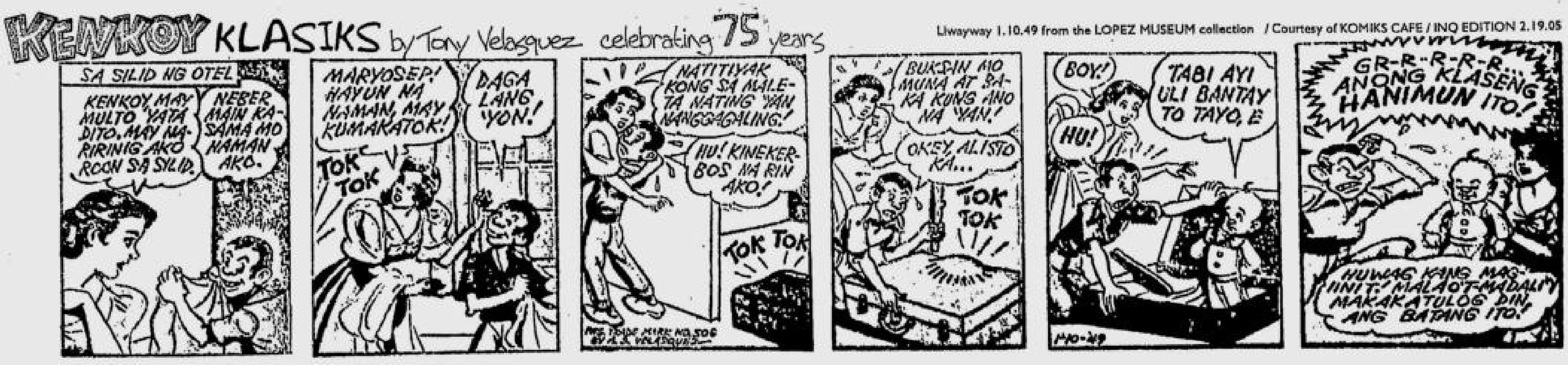
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HINDI NAMAN PINOY SINA EBA AT ADAN NADAMAY PA AKO SA KASALANAN NILA!!!
AT DAHIL LANG SA ISANG APPLE!!! PABORITO KO PA NAMAN ANG APPLE!!
'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA PIPO.!! HINDI NA KASALANAN ANG KUMAIN NG APPLE NGAYON!!
HAAAY SALAMAT!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HAHAHA HIHIHI HAHAHA
HAHAHA HIHIHI
ITO ANG SARAP PAG BOBO ANG KAUSAP MO, KAHIT CORNY KA NATATAWA PA RIN!


KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years
SA SILID NG OTEL
KENKOY, MAY MULTO YATA DITO. MAY NARIRINIG AKO ROON SA SILID.
NEBER MAIN KASAMA MO NAMAN AKO.
MARYOSEP! HAYUN NA NAMAN, MAY KUMAKATOK!
DAGA LANG 'YON!
TOK TOK
NATITIYAK KONG SA MALETA NATING 'YAN NANGGAGALING!
HU! KINEKERBOS NA RIN AKO!
TOK TOK
REG. TRADE MARK NO. 506 BY A. S. VELASQUEZ
BUKSIN MO MUNA AT BAKA KUNG ANO NA 'YAN!
OKEY, ALISTO KA...
TOK TOK
1-10-49
BOY!
HU!
TABI AYI ULI BANTAY TO TAYO, E
GR-R-R-R-R... ANONG KLASENG HANIMUN ITO!
HUWAG KANG MAG-IINIT! MALAOT-MADALI'Y MAKAKATULOG DIN ANG BATANG ITO!

Liwayway 1.10.49 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 2.19.05

Eight more performances for 'Nasaan si Hesus?'

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER more than 50 performances, "Nasaan si Hesus?," Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel's acclaimed religious presentation, has made a name for itself as one of the most popular spiritual productions in the country.

In fact, some of its cast members thought that the show had already run its course, and were rehearsing for new productions.

But, it looks like the public's interest in "Nasaan si Hesus?" remains unabated. Mrs. Pimentel, the wife of Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., was pleasantly surprised last January when she received more invitations for the religious musical-drama-comedy revue to be performed in different parts of the country, and even abroad.

Real problems

"Nasaan si Hesus?" is popular because it focuses on the real problems that Christians face in today's complex world. Audiences have empathized and learned a lot from the production's dramatization of problem situations like the plight of streetchildren, teenage pregnancy, corrupt politicians, loss of faith even among the clergy, shocking child labor practices, exploitation of cultural minorities, cruel propensity for gossip, womanizing husbands and fathers, and other assaults on family life.

PIMENTEL. Public's interest in her religious musical remains unabated.

Those compelling scenes are made even more empathetic, forceful and moving by the beautiful songs that Pimentel has composed for the show. They include "Batang Lansangan," "Pamilya, Pamilya," "Bakit Nakikita Kita sa Kamay ng Bata," "Cindy's Song" and "Pagkakataon."

If you want "Nasaan si Hesus?" to be performed in your parish, school, office or locality, call Andy Bais at 780-9210 or 0919 206-5424.

Combination

This combination of pertinent topicality, well-staged dramatic and comedy scenes, expressive lyrics and memorable songs is further enhanced by spirited and perceptive performances turned in by the show's gifted and versatile actor-singers, who each play multiple roles.

The cast of "Nasaan si Hesus?" includes Bimbo Cerrudo, Andy Bais, Rito Asilo, Shiela Asuncion, Catherine Estabillo, Nadja Matining, Russell Magno, Ray Manalo, Cecille and Mica Torre, Camille Onglao and Angel Cuenco.

The religious revue's new round of performances for 2005 kicks off with a performance at 7 p.m. on March 4 at Abelardo Hall at UP Diliman, Q.C. The performance is sponsored by the Christian Family Movement, c/o Frank and Nini Ramos.

Presentation

On March 23, at 7:30 p.m., "Nasaan si Hesus?" will be performed again at the Philamlife Auditorium, UN ave., Manila. The presentation is sponsored by the United Social Security System Members Inc., the Manila Lions Club and Bulacan Governor Josie dela Cruz.

In May, the cast of "Nasaan si Hesus?" will fly all the way to Siargao, Surigao del Sur, for two shows there, under the auspices of Siargao Island Surf Company for the parishes of the municipalities of Sta. Monica, Gen. Luna, Del Carmen and Pilar.

And, this summer, the show will have four performances in the United States.

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⑦ The Aviator

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DiCaprio, Foster and other . . .

From page A3-1

in Richard Benjamin's delightful "Mermaids." This was followed by quirky roles in "The Addams' Family," "Casper" and in Ang Lee's "The Ice Storm." She has since become an indie film fixture.

Jodie Foster started her distinguished film career at age 10 in Michael Douglas' "Napoleon and Samantha" (where she was attacked by a lion, and still has the scars to show for the 'incident'). To date, she has acquired four Oscar nominations—including one for best supporting actress at age 14 for Scorsese's 1976 classic, "Taxi Driver"-and two best actress wins (for "The Accused" and "The Silence of the Lambs").

Reese Witherspoon first appeared in the romantic weeper, "The Man in the Moon," with Jason London. After starring in the "Legally Blonde" films, she now commands a hefty $20 million paycheck per film, and will soon be seen in another romantic flick, "Just Like Heaven," with Mark Ruffalo, and in the Johnny Cash biopic, "Walk the Line," with Joaqun Phoenix.

Indelible

Brad Renfro delivered an indelible performance in the film adaptation of John Grisham's "The Client" (with Susan Sarandon), followed by equally impressive turns in Barry Levinson's "Sleepers" and Larry Clark's disturbing "Bully."

Anna Paquin ("X-Men") won her Oscar statuette at age 11 for Jane Campion's "The Piano."

On the other hand, Thora Birch, who started acting at age six, has since grown into a sensitive young adult, who in recent years turned in memorable performances in Sam Mendes' "American Beauty" and Terry Zwigoff's "Ghost World."

The latest actor to don the Batman cape, Christian Bale, established himself as a cult celebrity for his performance in Steven Spielberg's haunting wartime masterpiece, "The Empire of the Sun."

Then, of course, there's Drew Barrymore. The endearing actress debuted in a TV drama ("Suddenly Love") at age three. After appearing in the William Hurt starrer "Altered States," she landed a role in Spielberg's classic sci-fi splash, "E.T., The Extra Terrestrial."

Barrymore "lost her way" soon after, succumbing to alcohol and drug abuse, but eventually found cinematic redemption in her 20s in films like "The Wedding Singer," "Ever After," "50 First Dates" and "Charlie's Angels." She has just completed the Farrelly brothers' football-and-romance flick, "Fever Pitch," with Jimmy Fallon.

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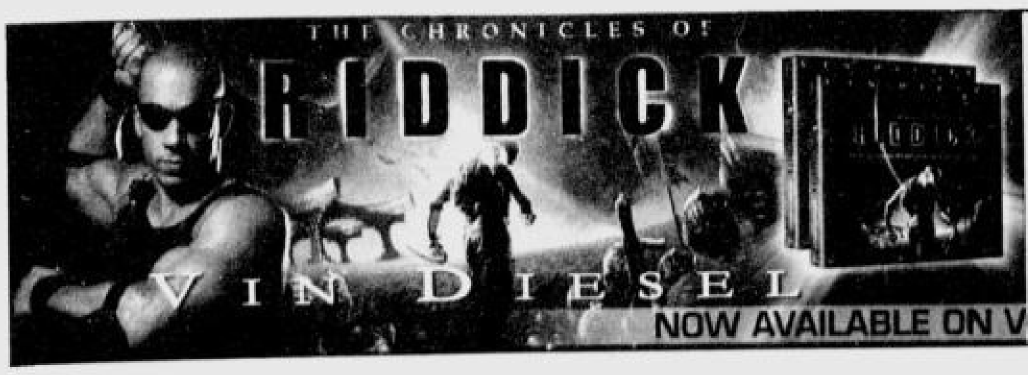
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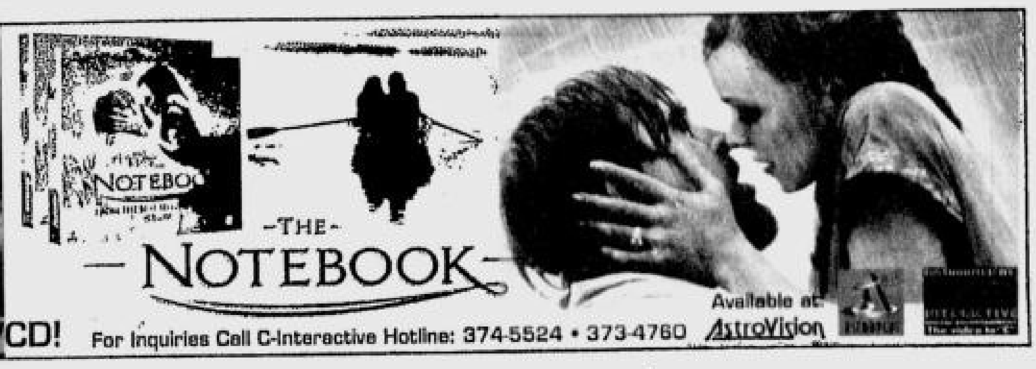
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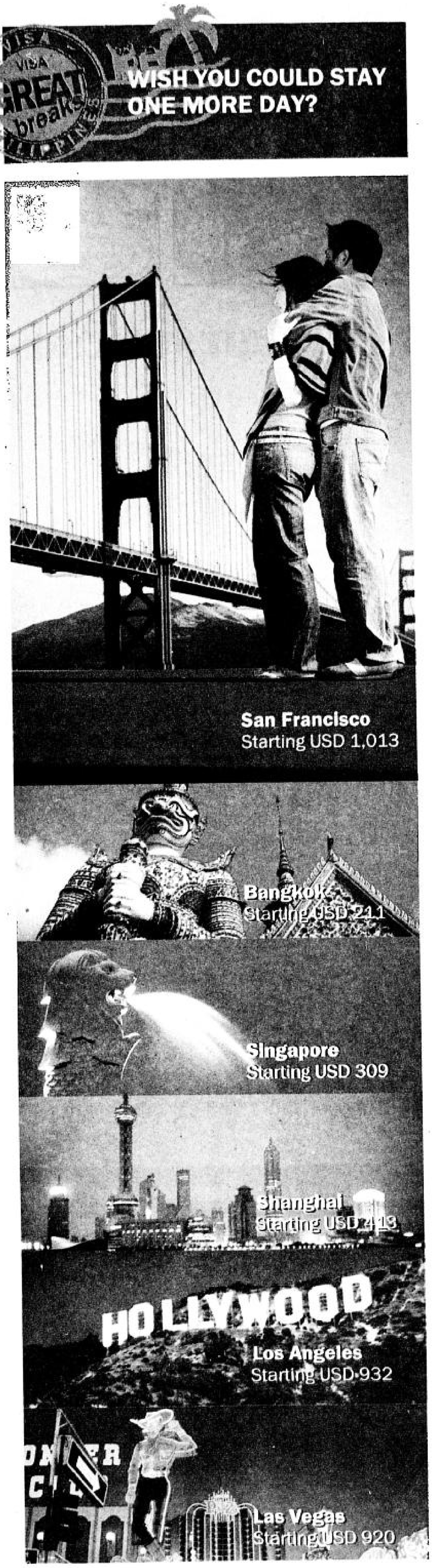

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VISA
All it takes.

[redacted]

Dark, dazzling children's tale

By Rito P. Asilo

"Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events"

D: Brad Silberling

S: Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep, Jude Law

THE beauty of Brad Silberling's big-screen adaptation of Daniel Handler's dark children's books lies not only in the visually audacious magical world that the director conjures up with his awesome production team (composed mostly of Tim Burton collaborators).

But, the film has more substance than flash. Its strength ultimately rests in its inspiring and life-affirming lessons on love and family—something that many of us are aware of but often fail to really appreciate.

CARREY. Bottomless bag of thespic tricks.

After the mysterious death of their parents, the Baudelaire children—14-year-old Violet, 12-year-old Klaus and the infant Sunny—are sent to live with one "distant" relative after another. They inherit an enormous fortune that can't be used until the eldest child comes of age.

Unfortunately, they end up in the care of the greedy Count Olaf (Jim Carrey)—a particularly hammy actor, whose idea of brilliant acting is "big" acting (actors, take note!). He camouflages himself in various disguises to steal the orphans' inheritance.

The kids continually foil the talentless villain. But one by one, well-meaning relatives (including the delightful Meryl Streep as Aunt Josephine, a pathologically neurotic grammar nut) end up dead. Then, Violet finds herself the bride in a bizarre wedding ceremony that has Count Olaf playing the groom. Will the unfortunate events in these children's lives ever cease?

Jim Carrey utilizes his bottomless bag of thespic tricks to deliver an appropriately over-the-top performance. On the other hand, Streep never ceases to amaze. She is hilariously endearing as the grief-stricken but kind-hearted widow who is consumed by irrational fear—of blood-sucking leeches, falling refrigerators, even of friendly realtors—she's scared of everything! The omnipresent Jude Law (who's also in this week's "The Aviator," as Errol Flynn) plays narrator Lemony Snicket. (Take note of a special cameo from Dustin Hoffman.)

Despite its dark, gothic tone, Silberling's delightful movie inspires with its message of finding hope and joy in an unfriendly and sinister world.

When an unexpected albeit belated gift arrives, the children realize that, as they move on, they can rise above grief and misery by deriving comfort and solace from one another.

Key initiatives to aid ailing film industry

By Nestor U. Torre

FELEO. Wants to expand incentives.

WHAT will it take to get the Filipino movie industry out of the slump it's been in for more than five years now?

Laurice Guillen-Feleo, chairperson of the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines, recently, detailed these key initiatives for the Senate committee on Public Information and Media.

- Law Enactment and Funding. The film industry badly needs the Senate's help in funding RA 9167 to enable the FDCP to fully implement its mandate.

Legislative action is also needed to amend specific provisions of the law to cover all Local Government Units with theaters exhibiting films, instead of only the highly urbanized and independent component cities, in the imposition and collection of amusement taxes for graded films..

Important

It is similarly important to provide government support to help our film industry. (In Korea, they have the Film Promotion Finance Association, operated by the government agency called the Korean Film Council, which provides seed money to develop Korean movies. They also have the Film Investors Council that induces private investors' participation in the film industry.)

Another form of support is through government investment in film production. In Thailand, their government through the Ministry of Science and Technology puts in up to 70 percent of the funds for film producers, making them investors in the movie business.

Also, supporting the proposal to attach the FDCP to a department such as the Department of Tourism to strengthen its role as enabler in promoting and marketing Filipino films worldwide. As in Korea and Thailand, we should consider that when we promote Filipino movies abroad, we promote our country as well.

Expanding incentives through a law or policy similar to Korea's "screen quota system." This protectionist film policy requires cinemas in Korea to screen domestically produced products 146 days a year, or 40 percent of the time, to protect and nurture their local films.

Taxes

- Taxes and expansion of incentives:

Coordinating with DTI/BOI in reviewing the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP) for motion pictures, to allow small film producers to avail of the incentives offered by the IPP.

Assisting existing film schools and those that may open in the future through the provision of incentives in the purchase of new equipment for purposes of training and education, such as providing tax holidays on that equipment.

Supporting production and post-production houses through the same kind of tax incentives on the purchase of conventional 35mm, as well as digital filming and post-production equipment, and also equipment for conversion (kine-transfer and data-transfer) between these two technologies; and subtitling equipment (production and post-production houses availing of these incentives may then be able to rent out at subsidized rates.)

Proposing the reduction or total cancelation of the amusement tax by Local Government Units.

- Infrastructure

Archives

Building and operating the national film archives, according to globally-accepted standards.

And proposing the enactment of a law creating a film zone similar to the export processing zones, whereby foreign as well as domestic filmmakers may be invited to make their films in a specialized zone here, with special taxation policies, facilities and structures that are of international standards.

Guillen-Feleo concluded: "Given the necessary financial support, we can assure the Senate that Republic Act 9167 is a law that works, and serves the purpose for which it was created."

We trust that these important initiative will indeed be supported by our legislators, so our film industry can enjoy a new resurgence in the months and years to come.

Elaborate flourishes in Seal's 'Best' collection

By Noelani Torre

SEAL. Quality of his songs has never been questioned.

WITH only four albums released in the past 13 years, Brit pop-soul singer Seal isn't exactly what you'd call prolific. What he is is best-selling (13 million units sold), Grammy-winning, and—even at his worst—a critic's darling. And though he's had his share of misses in the past decade, the quality of his music has never been questioned.

Craftsmanship

If there's one thing we've come to expect from Seal Henri Samuel, it's this consistently high level of craftsmanship. His material may not always soar, but when it does, it's the best there is, and even his weakest songs are well-made.

You can imagine then how great a "best-of" collection would sound—though you don't have to now that one such album is out in the market.

Released late last year, Seal's two-disc "Best: 1991-2004," brings together 14 career-spanning choice cuts (11 originals and three covers) that remind us why Seal has remained on top of the adult contemporary genre despite the lengthy in-between-records breaks.

The songs in "Best" represent not only the cream of Seal's and long-time producer Trevor Horn's 13-year collaboration, but they've also been some of the most sophisticated music that mainstream radio has given us in the past decade.

So, even if the only Seal song you can identify is his ubiquitous "Kiss From A Rose," some of the tracks will no doubt sound familiar—particularly "Crazy" and "Killer" (from his 1991 self-titled debut), "Prayer for the Dying" (from the 1994 second album), and "Love's Divine" (from 2003's "Seal IV").

The last collection earned him a best pop vocal performance nomination at this year's Grammys, though the award eventually went to John Mayer.

Stylish

Once again, Horn helms the production. He is Seal's not-so-secret weapon. The producer has been responsible for the stylish multi-layered arrangements that we've come to associate with the artist. He produced all of Seal's previous albums, and his elaborate sonic flourishes have always worked well with the singer's distinctive husky voice and genre-blending performances. *(To be concluded)*

Banking milestone

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

NAFFAA and BPI have agreed to rally overseas Filipinos to a savings mobilization program, under which they are encouraged to open a BPI dollar time-deposit account. On its own, BPI will arrange financial assistance to micro-enterprises.

Another choice is for global or expat Pinoys to do their share in helping their countrymen by donating to BPI Foundation for microfinance use through the program, "BPI Tulong sa Pinoy Account."

The National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA), led by chairperson Loida Nicolas-Lewis, and the Bank of the Philippine Islands, under president and Aurelio Montinola III signed a Memorandum of Understanding last Feb. 18.

A joint project of

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura (left) teams up with Aurelio Montinola and Loida Nicolas-Lewis.

Funds

NaFFAA and BPI believe that a part of the huge remittances should be channeled to more productive ventures. The funds generated will increase the relending capability of accredited micro-financing companies that lend to micro-enterprises in the Philippines.

Bangko Sentral, under Governor Buenaventura, fully supports micro-financing initiatives. As a result, the number of banks engaged in small-scale, collateral-free lending has risen to 132 from only 20 in 1999.

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BUSINESS

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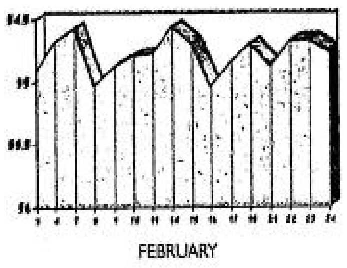
Employers back higher tax exemptions

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 54.76 = $

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 24, 2005

¥ 104.68 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 24, 2005

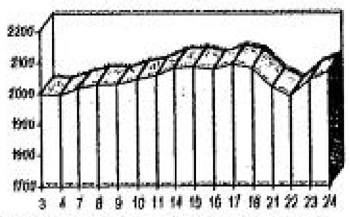
GOLD: $ 433.40-433.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 24, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Stock rally seen to continue

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



FOLLOW-THROUGH buying is expected when stock trading resumes Monday. The market was closed Friday for a public holiday.

Some investors, however, could start taking profit after the two-day runup since Wednesday.

Investors are expected to continue to favor stocks with strong 2004 earnings prospects as well as those seen well positioned for recovery.

On Thursday, the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed up 30.41 points at 2,073.19, just off the day's high of 2,073.94.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines said it was supporting the Department of Finance's proposal for Congress to raise the income tax exemptions of wage workers to P120,000 from the current P96,000.

Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano said in a statement the proposal would help ordinary wage earners cope with a rise in their daily cost of living once industries or service companies pass on the burden of a higher value-added-tax to consumers.

Soriano said that Ecop, the country's biggest group of employers and which represents local companies in tripartite negotiations for social and economic policies, has also submitted to the Senate ways and means committee a proposal related to the VAT.

The Senate is currently deliberating a bill that seeks to raise the VAT to 12 percent from 10 percent.

He said the group's proposal was for increasing the number of workers who do not have to pay annual income taxes, which would increase their take-home pay because no more income taxes would be withheld from their wages.

"Increasing tax exemptions (for workers) is better than adjusting minimum wages, which works against the interest of workers themselves," Soriano said.

He said that if minimum wages were increased, many companies—including small and medium enterprises—would resort to laying off workers to pay the wages of the remaining staff.

"At this time when what is needed is job creation, the net effect of a wage adjustment is higher unemployment," Soriano said.

The government itself would be saddled with more social problems if more people were entering the workforce but available jobs were decreasing, he said.

"This is the result of paying higher local wages at a time when foreign competitors in China, Indonesia or Malaysia are paying lower wages but producing more," Soriano said. "Any wage adjustment, he said, must be based on an increase in productivity."

Smart, Piltel not joining price war

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. said they would not join the telecom price war and instead focus on delivering quality service to their more than 19 million subscribers.

This developed as the National Telecommunications Commission said it had approved Globe Telecom Inc.'s application to offer to its Touch Mobile subscribers a 30-day unlimited voice and text promo for only P300 and unlimited text for 5 days for only P50 on top of existing subscription rates.

NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said that Touch Mobile was expected to launch the promo between March 1 and 15.

Rogelio Quevedo, head of Smart's legal department, said neither Smart nor Piltel's Talk N' Text, at this point, would join the price war.

"Smart and Piltel will maintain the highest quality of of service and standard especially for its postpaid subscribers. We believe there is a niche market for this premium service," Quevedo said.

Sun Cellular's 24/7 sells unlimited call and text service for P250 a month or P100 for 10 days, also on top of existing plans. Sun Cellular is the trade name of Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc.

Touch Mobile's unlimited plan is not available to Globe subscribers but the service will ride completely on the network of Globe's more than 4,000 cellular stations that cover about 90 percent of the country.

Globe's wholly owned Innove Communications Inc. operates the Touch Mobile brand, which is supposed to pierce the lower segment of the market.

Sun Cellular, on the other hand, has about 1,300 cell sites although it has plans to expand the network to 2,000 this year.

A telecom executive pointed out that Globe's decision to join the price war could prompt its postpaid subscribers to move out because they could suffer from the traffic that the Touch Mobile rock-bottom pricing would generate.

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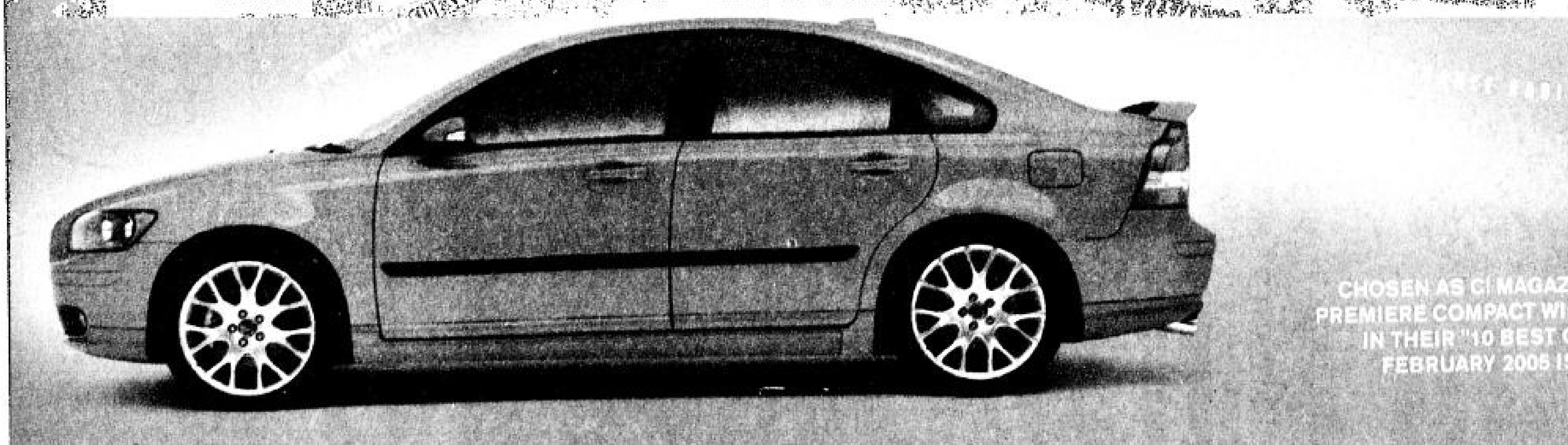

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The show off must go on

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HOW would you like to show off to the rest of the world that, even with our 11 million jobless people, we can still afford to kill off more of our manufacturing firms?

Well, the macho among us may be happy to see a lot of our manufacturing jobs move out of the country, but the cement companies do not like it at all.

They are asking this cute administration of Gloriaetta to stop showing off and start putting up safeguards against too much imports—i.e. dumping.

For the past two months, you see, cement companies—plus workers' groups and local officials—have been trooping regularly to the Tariff Commission, begging for mercy.

They asked for the re-imposition of the P15.60-per-bag tariff on cement. You know what? The importers are not even attending the hearings. Hmm.

Whether they're really that confident, or they know something that we don't, nobody can say as yet.

* * *

THAT safeguard measure was originally pegged at P20.60 per bag in 2002 by the Department of Trade and Industry, under Sen. Mar Roxas.

Succumbing to intense lobbying from cement importers, well funded by cement makers abroad, the Tariff Commission, however, brought down the safeguard.

For your information, most of the cement imports came from Japan and Taiwan. Giant cement companies from those countries put up "trading" firms as fronts here.

Now, those countries are not exactly the enemies of protectionism in these parts, particularly when it comes to the importation of Philippine-made cement. Fair enough.

* * *

OUR local cement companies actually fear a return to the massive dumping of cement from Taiwan and Japan into the Philippines only a few years ago.

And so, they are asking the Tariff Commission for the same safeguard measure that expired last December. Not more! Just the same!

As everybody knows, except perhaps some senators, the tariff imposition was made under RA 8800, or the Safeguard Measures Act, which was passed in 2000.

At that time, manufacturing businesses were closing down, moving out to other countries in the region, because they could not compete against imports.

But our leaders wanted to show off. Instead of cutting off their bal..., este, their hair pala, they cut our import tariffs. In effect, they cut off our ... well, manhood.

* * *

YOU see, they cut our tariffs across the board, even ahead of other countries in the region. What was more, they cut our tariff much lower than the others.

Yet this country enjoyed one of the highest costs of doing business in these parts, thanks to high power rates, which is the second highest in Asia, next only to Japan's.

Graft and corruption, meanwhile, were not exactly our strength either. And then, the manufacturing guys must contend with our poor pitiful infrastructure.

All in all, we were not exactly a manufacturing haven. Yet our leaders wanted to show off. And so the onslaught of imported goods killed our manufacturing sector.

At that time, due to antiquated laws, before you could get protection from the government against imports, you had to prove first that you were already dead.

* * *

AND so Congress passed the Safeguard Measures Act, which allowed the government to impose tariffs on imports which endanger local businesses.

In 2001 in the cement sector, tons upon tons of cement were dumped into the country from Taiwan and Japan.

Well, at that time, the region only had a cement glut of about 210 million metric tons, because of the construction slowdown resulting from the Asian financial crisis.

Fortunately for those cement companies abroad, the Philippines had one of the lowest cement tariffs in the region.

They were pegged at 3 percent for imports Asean countries, and just a little higher at 5 percent for imports from non-Asean nations.

No wonder then that the country became the favorite dumping ground of cement in the region. The question is, have things changed today?

* * *

FOR one, the workers' groups in the cement sector are so worried about the return of cement dumping that they never missed the hearings of the Tariff Commission.

Due to closure and downsizing of manufacturing companies from 1995 to 2002, it was estimated that about 100,000 factory workers lost their jobs.

That was two years ago. Now, where are the reforms that can make the worldwide trend of "trade liberalization" work in our country? What? We are still years to go before we can become competitive?

Well, in that case, according to the workers' groups, we better put back the safeguard tariff on cement.

See, I told, the safeguard measure would not have been necessary today if we were not such a bunch of show-offs some years ago.

* * *

LABOR, local government units, and cement makers think that the situation has changed much, except that the glut in the region has gone down to only 180 million metric tons.

Even with the infrastructure frenzy in China, that country has a production glut in cement. Well, it's only 63 million metric tons.

Thailand alone has a glut of 30 million metric tons. You know what? Such a glut is already three times the total annual demand in the Philippines.

Where do you think all that cement will go (come?), if this country tries to show off again? Well, definitely not to other Asean countries!

Taiwan, for instance, sticks to a rate of more than 42 percent. But Taiwan also imposes more than 100-percent tariff on Philippine-made cement.

Taiwan, apparently, thinks we are something special.

* * *

IN Japan, while the tariff is not that high, they only use scare tactics and all that, to discourage importation.

For instance, if you use imported cement even once, you land on the "blacklisted" group, and no Japanese cement company will sell to you again.

The Japanese government does not issue new permits for port terminals for shipment of imported cement, which is needed for bulk shipment.

You know what? Japan's cement market is only 85 percent bulk.

Other countries have liberal rules but still have tariff, with Malaysia at 50 percent, Vietnam at 20 percent, and Bangladesh at 100 percent.

In all those countries, moreover, imported cement claim less than one percent of their markets. In short, they are not showing off.

* * *

HERE in this country with a preference for cuteness, the government actually lured cement companies to sell their souls to upgrade their facilities.

That was not too long ago. In the early 1990s, we had a cement shortage. Well, okay, we had a shortage of everything at that time.

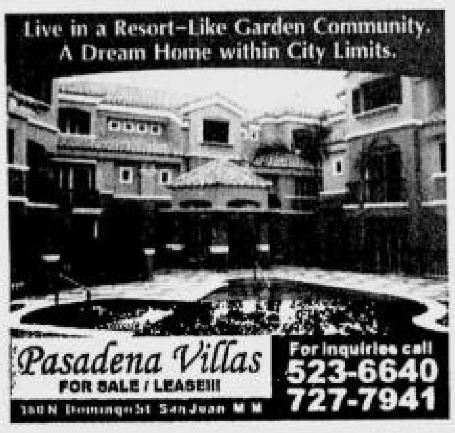
Anyway, the government encouraged the cement firms to invest. They had to borrow a lot of money abroad—meaning, in dollars.

Only several peso devaluations later, they were already on their knees. Losses in 1997, for instance, year of the Asian financial crisis, amounted to P3.5 billion.

So they had to invite foreign investors. These guys put in some $2 billion more into the industry, paying off debts and buying new equipment.

Government lured them with the promise of safeguards against imports, even passing the Safeguard Measures Act in 2000.

And now that they are in, does it mean that, because we want to go on showing off some more, they are on their own?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PCSO to boost earnings in 2005

THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) expects to boost its earnings by roughly P1.9 billion a year due to expanded lottery operations.

In a statement read before the House Committee on Gaming, PCSO chair Sergio Valencia said providing an alternative channel, by which the public could place bets for lotto, would help improve PCSO's income.

PCSO is looking at using the latest technologies in lotto games, such as through wireless and Internet systems, as well as mobile phones.

Valencia assured legislators that PCSO "has adopted sufficient regulatory mechanisms and safeguards against the indiscriminate access to the project, most especially by the youth."

Registration, he said, was the key to security and the prevention of minors. This will also align the PCSO with the main requirements of the new Anti Money Laundering Act.

Aside from higher earnings, the multiple channel strategy will also enable PCSO to reduce expenses by as much as P300 million a year from savings in printing of paper, ink, logistical and manpower costs.

Integrated Bar of the Philippines

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"Alleviating Poverty and Resolving the Fiscal Crisis: Challenges for the Legal System"

CAP - John Hay Convention Center
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19-23 April 2005

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Tuesday - April 19, 2005 - Registration
Golf Tournament
Optional Tours

Wednesday - April 20, 2005 - Continuation of Registration
Opening Ceremonies
Luncheon and Address of Keynote Speaker
Fellowship Night

Thursday - April 21, 2005 - MCLE Sessions
Awards Night

Friday - April 22, 2005 - MCLE Sessions
Closing Ceremonies

Saturday - April 23, 2005 - Post Convention Tours

REGISTRATION FEES

February 16 to on-site .... P 5,000.00
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Contact for details:
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Telephone Nos.: 634-4697 or 631-3014

Host Region: Northern Luzon
Host Chapter: Baguio-Benguet

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 24, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	110,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29	30	29	30	315,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	58	57	58	569,200
China Banking Corp.	660	680	660	680	240
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	48	48	28,100
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.86	0.89	0.86	0.87	6,410,000
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	31,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37.5	38	37	37.5	4,562,300
Philippine National Bank	32	33.5	32	33	46,600
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29.5	29	29	45,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2500	2500	2500	2500	40
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.1	2.14	2.1	2.14	168,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1745	1745	1745	1745	170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	18	86,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.48	1.54	1.48	1.5	15,859,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	39,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	930	935	925	930	34,310
Ipeople Inc.	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.8	158,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.065	0.0575	0.06	36,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.075	0.0625	0.07	224,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.6	4,376,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1365	1385	1365	1375	37,420
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.75	0.75	7,400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.021	0.014	0.02	2,406,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.75	18.75	17.5	18.25	350,900
Manila Electric Co. B	27	29	27	28	4,234,100
Petron Corp.	3.8	4	3.8	3.95	6,503,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	165,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	98,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	8.1	7.6	8.1	1,358,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	280,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	29,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	1,160,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.15	4.45	4.15	4.25	9,351,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4	4	4	4	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	4	4.05	3.9	3.95	558,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	37	37.5	37	37.5	26,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	29	2,414,000
RFM Corp.	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.95	430,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	310,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	57	66,100
San Miguel Corp. B	79	79.5	79	79.5	59,200
Universal Robina Corp.	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.9	508,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	810,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	163,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	28,500,000
Ayala Corp.	7.8	8.2	7.8	8.1	5,590,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.6	0.6	730,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.45	4.5	4.4	4.5	547,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	7,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.044	0.046	0.043	0.045	52,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.02	2.1	2.02	2.02	448,000
APC Group Inc.	0.49	0.52	0.47	0.49	31,150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	142,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	12,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.84	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	21.5	22	21.5	21.5	37,600
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.175	5,050,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.36	1.38	157,607,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	280,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	3,450,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	940,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.58	0.62	0.58	0.61	9,030,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.35	4.5	4.1	4.2	4,158,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.0575	10,800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	19,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	11.75	12	10.75	10.75	2,428,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	59	59.5	57	57.5	1,280,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.11	12,690,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.86	1.96	1.84	1.84	2,082,000
Ionics Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	127,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.4	3.25	3.4	628,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.16	2.08	2.14	150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.66	1.72	2,918,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,360,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.62	0.63	0.6	0.61	89,580,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.4	0.41	4,000,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	1,450,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	450,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.16	8,500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	730,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	19,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	117,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	120,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.135	0.155	0.13	0.155	31,630,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.7	1.7	52,125,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.22	1.24	2,917,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.3	1.32	7,240,000
Manila Jockey Club	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	6,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	4,340,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	400,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series B	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.3	9,006,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	120,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.94	270,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	8,000,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.4	0.4	44,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.53	0.54	9,650,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.78	1.78	1,573,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.88	70,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	350,000
City & Land Developers	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	3,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	70,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	540,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
Primex Corp.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.6	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	12,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	3,980,000
SM Development Corp.	2	2	1.9	1.9	277,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	2,826,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	191,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	185,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	64,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7	7	6.8	6.8	306,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	17,000
Benguet Corp. B	14	14	14	14	4,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	7,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.39	0.42	0.39	0.4	5,510,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	41,420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	143,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	214,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.008	0.0085	486,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.2	1.22	1.16	1.16	503,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.42	1.48	1.4	1.42	2,987,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	45.5	45.5	45	45	1,022,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.3	0.35	0.3	0.35	110,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	3,500,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	98,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	27,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	17,500,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.95	3.15	2.95	3.05	362,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.22	0.26	0.21	0.24	167,750,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.46	0.36	0.44	900,000

CURRENCIES

February 25, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.756716	1.000000	54.6200
Japan	Yen	0.007221	0.009542	0.5212
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444571	1.909000	104.2696
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097020	0.128212	7.0029
Switzerland	Franc	0.650490	0.859623	46.9526
Canada	Dollar	0.608782	0.804505	43.9421
Singapore	Dollar	0.464956	0.614439	33.5607
Australia	Dollar	0.594342	0.785423	42.8998
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.007257	2.652590	144.8845
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.201791	0.266667	14.5654
Brunei	Dollar	0.463532	0.612557	33.4579
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000109	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019686	0.026015	1.4209
UAE	Dirham	0.206049	0.272294	14.8727
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.321500	72.1803
Argentina	Peso	0.258045	0.341006	18.6257
Brazil	Real	0.293301	0.387597	21.1705
Denmark	Kroner	0.134391	0.177598	9.7004
India	Rupee	0.017352	0.022931	1.2525
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.199162	0.263193	14.3756
Mexico	New Peso	0.068237	0.090175	4.9254
New Zealand	Dollar	0.548862	0.725321	39.6170
Norway	Kroner	0.121350	0.160364	8.7591
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012752	0.016852	0.9205
South Africa	Rand	0.130520	0.172482	9.4210
Korea	Won	0.000754	0.000997	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.110089	0.145482	7.9462
Syria	Pound	0.014577	0.019264	1.0522
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024269	0.032072	1.7518
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000395	0.000522	0.0285

Embassies urged to require ITRs from visa applicants

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance will seek the assistance of foreign embassies to help the Philippine government discourage tax evasion.

The DOF will ask embassies holding office in the Philippines to require the submission of copies of income tax returns from people applying for visas. This way, those who will travel abroad will be forced to become honest taxpayers.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said he would meet with representatives of major foreign embassies, including that of the United States and European countries, to personally discuss with them his idea of requiring ITRs from visa applicants.

Aside from requiring an applicant's bank account status, "requiring ITRs as a means to show one's financial capability can be a useful move for embassies," Purisima said in a speech before members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry during its general membership meeting Friday.

Purisima, who assumed the highest post at the DOF two weeks ago, said requiring ITRs for various transactions was one of the administrative measures that the government could do to raise more revenue and therefore ease its budget problems.

Earlier, Malacañang and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas made similar moves. President Macapagal-Arroyo issued an executive order directing government agencies to require ITRs from bidders for government contracts. The BSP, for its part, issued a circular directing banks to require the submission of ITRs from credit applicants before they are given loans.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has already issued two separate revenue regulations for Malacañang's executive order and the BSP's circular.

Purisima said promoting the use of ITRs would help boost the DOF's campaign to encourage tax payments. "We need to focus on collecting taxes to prove to legislators that we can deliver the collections expected from the tax laws they pass," Purisima said.

But aside from administrative measures to plug tax leakages and improve tax collection, Purisima stressed that there was still a need to pass new laws related to increasing the government's sources of revenue. Administrative measures alone were not enough to solve the enormous fiscal problem, he pointed out.

He noted that while annual tax leakages were estimated at P150 billion to P200 billion, the consolidated public sector deficit was about P260 billion. "So clearly, we still need legislative measures," he said.

One of the Arroyo administration's legislative proposals to raise revenues is the increase in the value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent. The proposal, which is expected to yield P35 billion in additional revenue a year, is experiencing rough sailing in the Senate.

Critics branded the proposal "anti-poor" because of its wide coverage of products and services. But the DOF said it could not be anti-poor when the revenue to be generated would be used to improve the government's basic services, which were mostly availed of by poor families.

Smart

From page B1

Globe has 630,495 postpaid subscribers out of its 12.5 million customers as of end-2004.

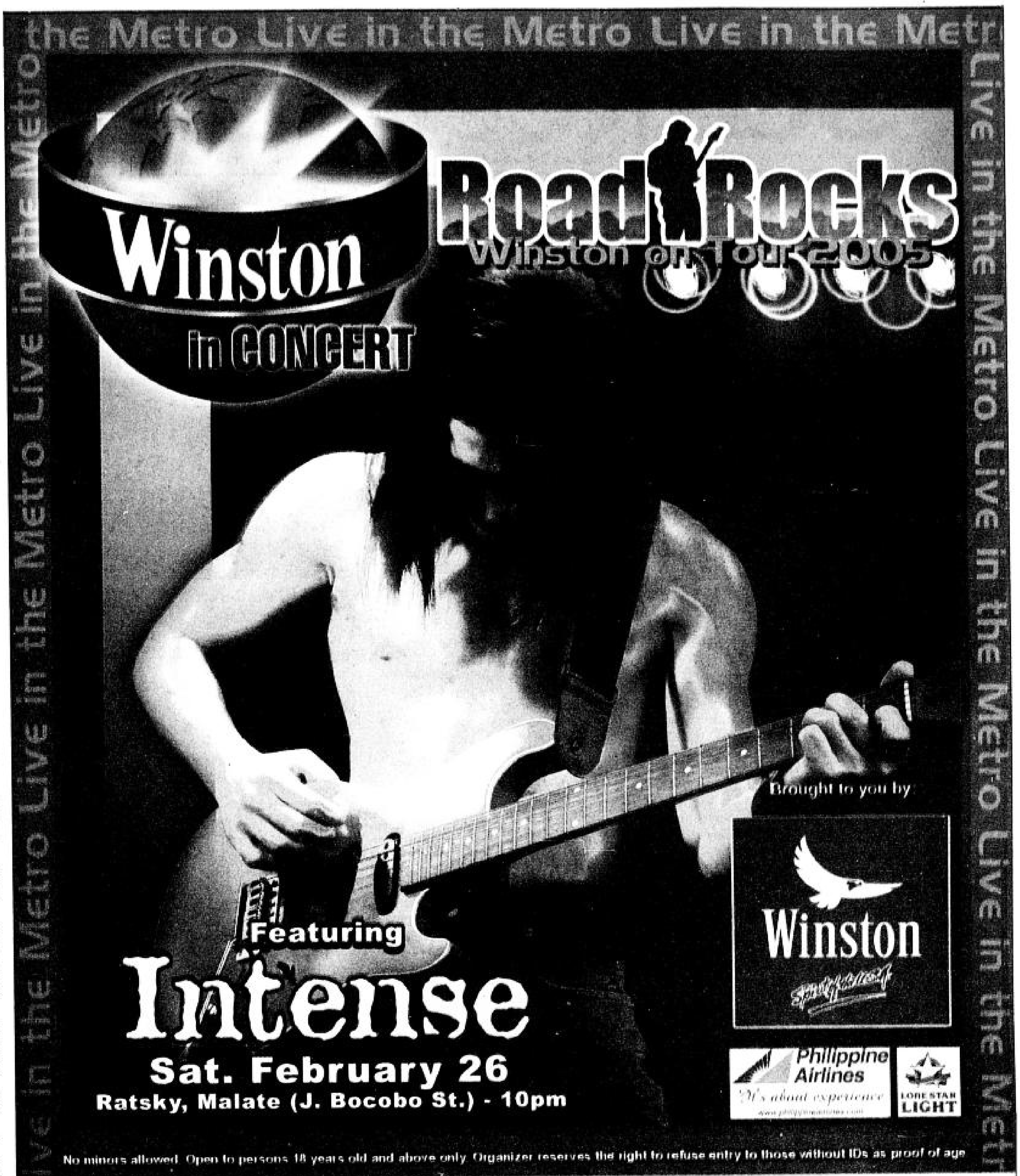
"Touch Mobile, which is powered by Globe, can still maintain the service performance standards set by the NTC on drop calls and grade of service," said Globe's head of regulatory affairs Froilan Castelo.

The promo, according to Globe's lawyer, should not affect the case filed by Globe against Sun Cellular's 24/7 plan.

Globe and Smart, through their smaller units Innove and Piltel, have separately asked the NTC to stop Sun Cellular from offering the 24/7 plan, claiming it was a form of predatory and discriminatory pricing.

As of end-2004, Touch Mobile had 1.7 million subscribers, up from 1.5 million in 2003. Sun Cellular said that as of January this year, it already had 1.5 million customers.

Touch Mobile competes in the same mass market as Piltel's Talk N' Text. Of Smart's more than 19 million subscribers last year, more than 4 million use the Talk N' Text brand.



Featuring Intense

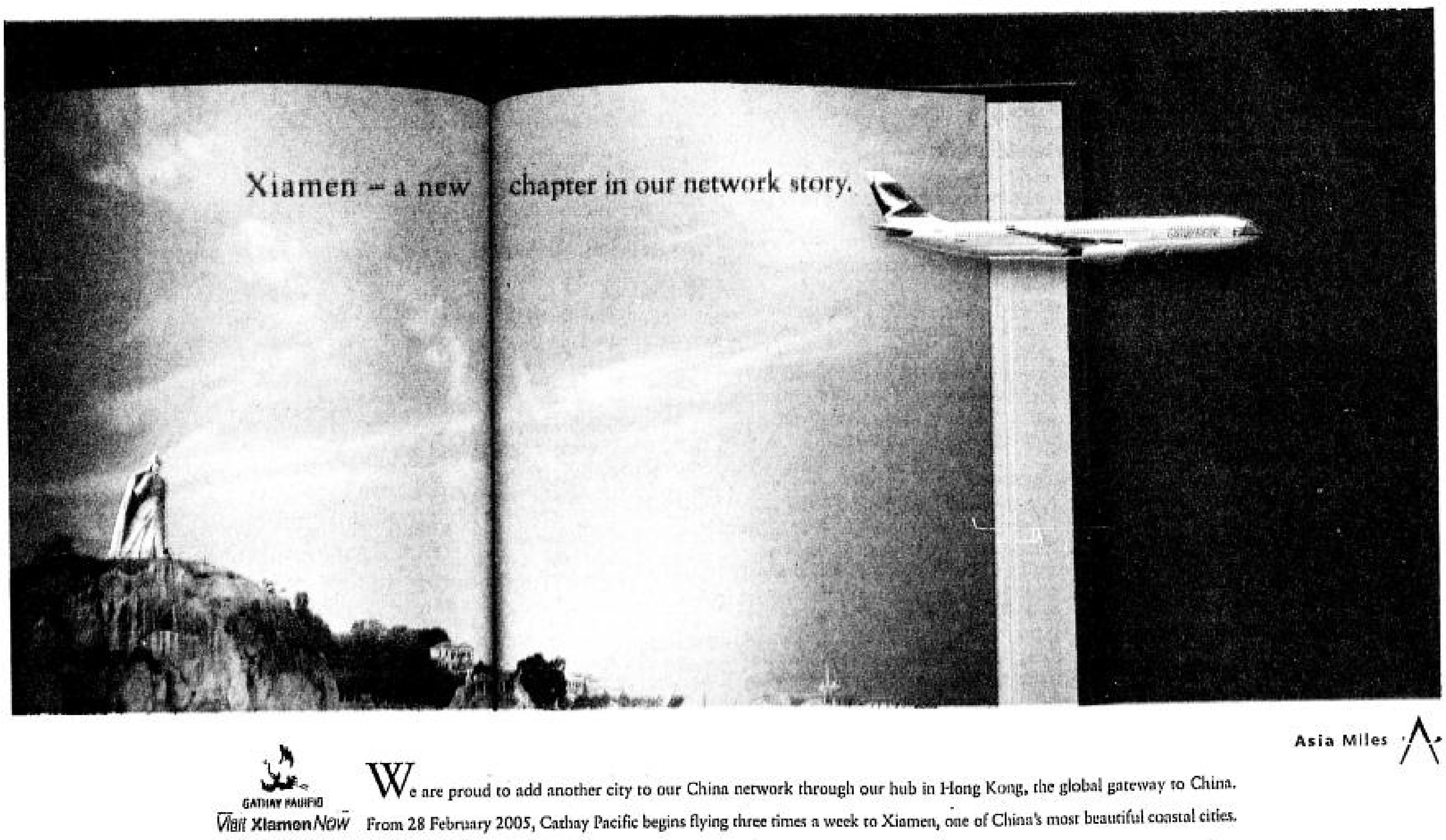
Sat. February 26

Ratsky, Malate (J. Bocobo St.) - 10pm

No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age

Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.



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[illegible]	Xiamen – HK	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mon, Wed, Fri

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OPERATION SMILE MISSION

Eliminate RP cleft cases in 10 years

By Charles E. Buban

THE COUNTRY needs 10 more years for it to eliminate cases of oral clefts (on lips, palates or both), according to the CEO and co-founder of Operation Smile who arrived last week to formally begin the Philippine leg of the annual international mission.

"The Philippines is capable of achieving this feat—ahead of the other 24 countries the mission is currently in—because of the various groups and individuals who are working tirelessly to raise local awareness and funds for the medical missions here," says Dr. William Magee.

Magee, a plastic surgeon, founded Operation Smile with his wife Kathleen, a nurse and clinical social worker, in 1982.

Today, the group is the world's largest private volunteer humanitarian organization that provides free reconstructive surgery and related healthcare to indigents.

1 in 500 births

The Philippines has a high incidence of oral clefts, with an estimated rate of one in every 500 live births every year (compared to one in 800 births in the United States), according to Operation Smile Philippines.

"This means that roughly 4,004 Filipinos are born each year with a cleft lip, palate, or both," says OSP president and CEO Edith Villanueva.

In fact, the Philippine Birth Defect Registry, a joint project of the Department of Health and the Institute of Human Genetics of the US National Institutes of Health, reported that cleft lips and palates are among the top 12 birth defects in the country.

Vitamin deficiency

An ongoing Operation Smile research study shows oral clefts occur with greater frequency among children with vitamin B6, or folic acid, deficiency.

The finding suggests that malnutrition is a major contributing factor in cases of oral clefts.

"This would explain their prevalence among the country's low-income groups," says Villanueva.

The international mission started last Feb. 17 where a multinational team of 31 volunteer plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, orthodontists and other medical specialists flew into the country to join 178 of their Filipino counterparts.

They were divided into the three sites where the mission is being held simultaneously: Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital in Cebu City, and Davao Medical Center in Davao City.

Around 700 cleft patients are expected to have their deformities corrected for free.

Cost of operation

Roberto Manzano, an OSP trustee, says the operation would cost P35,000 if done in a government hospital.

"But during the mission, donations from corporate and individual philanthropists and civic-minded professionals shoulder the cost of each operation, which runs between P7,000 and P8,000," he says.

In the Philippines, the major corporate supporters of the mission are Citibank, Colgate-Palmolive, Globe Telecom, International Exchange Bank, Johnson & Johnson, PAL Foundation, San Miguel Corp. and United Coconut Planters Bank.

More than 1,000 patients were treated in the Philippines during the international and local medical missions last year. This brings to more than 13,000 the number of Filipino beneficiaries of Operation Smile's international mission.

OPERATION Smile brings together volunteer medical workers who wish to bring smiles to children with cleft lips or palates.

All-Filipino missions

Villanueva says that in between international missions, OSP also conducts small missions composed of all-Filipino volunteers. Since 1999, these missions have treated 2,718 cleft children.

In all, Operation Smile has helped an estimated 70,000 children worldwide.

Although not a life-threatening condition, oral clefts and other facial deformities can be as devastating as other diseases.

"These conditions seriously impair the afflicted child's ability to develop social skills and lead a productive adult life in the community," says Magee.

He says that often those whose deformities were left uncorrected in their youth became totally reliant on their families in adulthood, adding strain to their already meager resources.

Says Magee: "Our volunteers can make a difference in the lives of these children and it only takes 45 minutes of corrective surgery to give them confidence and lasting wonderful smile."

A matter of taste

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

ACCORDING to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the word "taste" has four meanings:

1) To sample, such as when somebody aims a spoon at your mouth and demands that you "taste this!"

2) To know by experience, i.e., when victory was so close, the team could "taste" it

3) To enjoy or appreciate, i.e., when fashion critics decide which celebrities dress "in poor taste"

4) To have a specific flavor, i.e., "the toothpaste tastes like root beer."

It is this last definition that raises questions like, why does a dish that tastes sweet to some seem salty to others? More important, why does a dish that tastes sweet to some children taste different to them years later as adults?

Researchers Julie Mennella, M. Yanina Pepino and Danielle Reed from the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia use the "newly discovered" taste gene known as TAS2R38 to provide a partial answer. Their paper appears in this month's issue of Pediatrics, a journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Taste receptors

There are several hundred taste receptors on our tongues, several hundred more along the way from the mouth to the esophagus, and all of these taste buds work together to help us identify a total of five, yes a mere five, flavors: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and what the Japanese call umami, which is stimulated by the ingredients of soy sauce and MSG-rich foods.

TAS2R38 is involved in identifying bitter flavors.

Mennella et al. worked with 143 children and their mothers, who classified themselves as being either African-American and non-Hispanic, or European and non-Hispanic. They were referred to as black or white, respectively, in the study.

The researchers took cheek swabs to get genetic samples of the participants, who were then divided into three groups based on which TAS2R38 allele each had. Those who had two copies of the bitter-sensitive allele were considered part of the PP group. Those who were heterozygous for the bitter-insensitive allele were part of the AP group. And those who were homozygous for the bitter-insensitive allele belonged to the AA group.

Bitter chemical

The researchers asked the participants to sip from several cups containing some water mixed with increasing amounts of a bitter chemical known as PROP. They were then asked to spit out the solution and to say if the beverage tasted "yucky" or was just like water.

Mennella et al. divided the answers into four groups, ranging from those who said all the drinks were bitter, to those who said everything tasted just like water.

About 70 percent of the AP and PP groups found the water with the least amount of PROP bitter, but very few members of the AA group said the same thing. Interestingly, more children than adults in the AP group found the water bitter.

Sweetened drink

A second experiment asked the participants to choose between several pairs of beverages that had been sweetened to varying degrees. The experiment ended when each mother or child had selected the same sweetened drink at least twice in a row. Unsurprisingly, the AP and PP groups preferred much sweeter choices compared with the AA group.

Interestingly, Mennella et al. found that more black mothers in the AP and PP groups preferred the sweeter drinks than did the white mothers in the same groups.

Many reasons

Based on the results, Mennella et al. theorize that those who are most sensitive to bitter tastes could prefer sweets for a number of reasons.

One is that a person could be used to dousing unpleasant flavors with so much sugar that he eventually chooses sweets over other tastes.

Another possibility is that the molecular mechanisms involved in how taste receptors interact with the compounds determine how sweet or bitter something tastes.

"The sense of taste is an important determinant of what children eat. We know that young children eat what they like. We also know that many children do not like bitter taste, thereby interfering with vegetable consumption and potentially limiting intake of important nutrients," said Mennella, a developmental psychobiologist, in a press release.

By understanding the sense of taste on a molecular level, the authors conclude, it might be possible to influence a person's eating habits from childhood onward and prevent obesity and diabetes, among other health problems from starting at a young age.

Does this mean that *ampalaya* could more popular than chocolate someday? We'll have to wait and see.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Eat well and live long

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

HEART disease is the No. 1 killer in many countries, but decades of international scientific research have already produced ways to combat it. The Asian Food Information Centre (based in Singapore) summarizes old and new findings for a heart-healthy diet:

- **Choose whole grains and eat breakfast.** High fiber foods such as oats, legumes, nuts and some fruits have cholesterol-lowering benefits. Whole grain foods, such as whole wheat bread, are also rich in vitamins such as folic acid and thiamine and minerals such as magnesium and iron.

Aside from whole grains, fruit is a good way to start the day, since most varieties contain phytochemicals, the natural plant compounds responsible for their bright colors and appetizing flavors. Examples of phytochemicals are carotenoids found in red, yellow and orange fruit (and vegetables), flavonoids in apples (and green tea and chocolate), and thiols (in garlic and onion).

Moreover, a lot of studies have shown that eating breakfast not only helps people maintain their weight, but also gives them enough energy to start the day right.

Right fats

- **Consume the right fats.** Saturated fat has long been the culprit, since it raises the bad kind (LDL) of cholesterol. Replace fatty cuts of meat with lean meat, such as tenderloin. Choose low or nonfat dairy products. Switch from butter to olive oil.

Avoid deep-fried foods and junk food like chips and cookies. They contain another bad kind of fat, the so-called trans-fats, under the name of "partially hydrogenated shortening." Margarine made with cholesterol-lowering plant stanols and sterols is available in some supermarkets.

- **Be aware of cholesterol.** Restrict cholesterol intake to 300 milligrams daily. Stick to low-fat dairy products and lean meat, and minimize consumption of organ meats such as liver and kidney. Contrary to health warnings in the past, one egg a day now seems fine, because even though they contain cholesterol, they have little saturated fat.

Eat at least two servings of fish every week; omega-3 fatty acids in fish have been found to reduce heart disease risk

- **Choose good sources of protein.** Experts now recommend a moderate protein intake daily, from foods such as lean meats, soybeans, legumes, nuts, poultry and fish. Twenty-five grams of soy protein daily can lower total and LDL-cholesterol levels. Legumes are also rich in fiber. Moderate but regular nut snacks may be beneficial, since studies have found that the unsaturated fats in most nuts may help lower cholesterol.

2 servings of fish

- **Go for fish.** Eat at least two servings of fish every week; omega-3 fatty acids in fish have been found to reduce heart disease risk. For optimum benefit, choose oily fish like mackerel, trout, herring, sardines, albacore tuna and salmon. The bad news is a lot of these fish, such as tuna, may contribute to mercury poisoning (because tuna feed on practically anything, including large amounts of mercury which become embedded in their body), so limit their consumption for children and pregnant women.

Other sources of omega-3 fatty acids include soybeans, flaxseed, canola oil, olive oil, and many nuts and seeds.

- **Nothing beats fruits and vegetables.** This is one health finding which has remained constant across the decades. Mom was right, we have to eat our fruits and vegetables—at least five servings a day. Load up on beta-carotene with carrots, squash, yams, peaches, apricots, spinach and broccoli; vitamin C with peppers, green leafy vegetables, broccoli, tomatoes, potatoes, strawberries, oranges, grapefruit; and vitamin E with avocado, wheat germ and nuts.

Salt, vitamin B

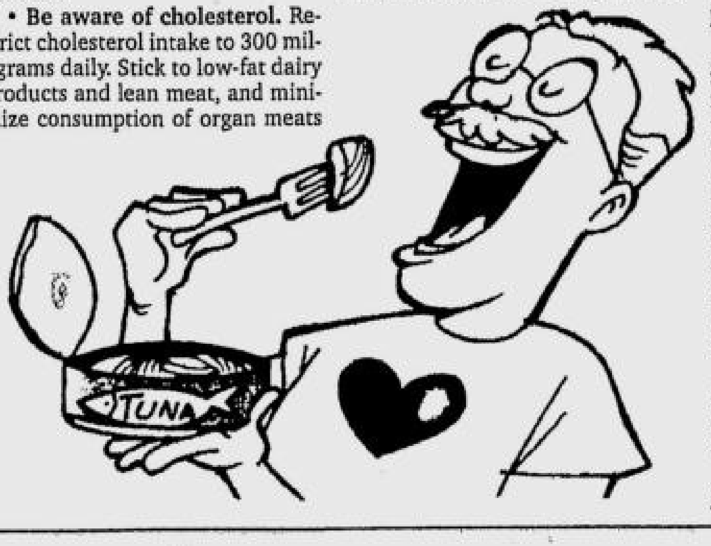
- **Minimize salt.** High blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke, and as sodium intake is directly associated with blood pressure, most doctors recommend limiting intake to less than five grams daily. Hold off on the salt shaker and cut down on fish sauce and salty snacks like chips.

- **Make sure to have enough B vitamins.** Aside from cholesterol, there is another blood marker for possible heart disease risk: homocysteine. When protein breaks down in the body, homocysteine is produced. High levels of it in the blood have been linked with increased heart disease risk. The good news is that folic acid and vitamins B6 and B12 have been found to reduce homocysteine levels. Eat a variety of vegetables, fruits and legumes, and moderate amounts of poultry, fish and beef.

- **Indulge in dark chocolate and green tea.** This is my favorite tip: Dark or plain chocolate contains heart-healthy flavonoids and cholesterol-lowering stearic acid (the predominant fat in chocolate). Recent studies have found that chocolate may also lower blood pressure. But do not take this as sign to splurge. Chocolate is still very high in calories and low in other nutrients, so have it as an occasional treat.

Green and black tea has been touted to contain healthy stuff, such as flavonoids, so enjoy a cup or two a day.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.



Mobile phone radiation within limits, says study

AFP

SOME health advocates are concerned that mobile phone use can lead to problems ranging from headaches to tumors, but a new study showed the radiation emitted by phones are well below agreed limits.

HELSINKI—A Finnish survey of some of the world's most popular mobile phones found the amount of radiation they emit was well below agreed limits and largely in line with data published by manufacturers.

The annual survey by Finland's Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) covered 16 new models made by top handset makers Nokia, Motorola, Samsung, Sony Ericsson and Siemens.

It follows the first study of 12 models done in 2003.

Mobile phones are essentially tiny radios that send and receive signals over airwaves.

Amount of heat

All the tested models showed a specific absorption rate (SAR)—which measures the amount of heat trapped by a phone user's head—well below the 2 watts per kilogram level agreed on in Europe.

At this level, head tissue does not warm significantly and no other harmful effects have been proven scientifically, STUK said. It said the SAR levels in all the 28 models tested so far ranged from 0.45 to 1.12 watts per kilogram.

Some health advocates are concerned that mobile phone use can lead to problems ranging from headaches to tumors, but various studies on the health effects of cell phone usage have proved inconclusive.

Advice

Britain's National Radiological Protection Board, an independent advisory group, said in January that mobile phone users, especially children, should take care, although no hard evidence exists to show mobile phones damage health.

"It is important that in the future the limits set for radiation from mobile phones and base stations are based on current and confirmed scientific proof of the effects of radiation on health," said STUK researcher Kari Jokela in a statement.

STUK said some of its studies have indicated that microwave radiation from mobile phones may cause small changes in how cells operate, but the findings were insufficient for concluding what effects of this radiation had on health.

STUK will start testing third-generation UMTS-standard mobile phones, focusing on the most popular models. *Reuters*

Picture phones may make doc's house calls

CHICAGO—Next up for cell phones with built-in digital cameras: making house calls for doctors.

Researchers in Switzerland reported on Monday the devices could be used to help diagnose and suggest treatment for some serious wounds in patients in remote locations far removed from a physician.

Leg ulcers

The report from the University Hospital of Geneva looked at leg ulcers in 52 patients that were examined both in person and remotely by doctors in a nearby room who had only pictures of the same wounds taken by a first-generation camera phone.

They found remarkably high agreement between doctors who looked at the wound in person and those who saw the image.

If visiting nurses in remote locations can send such pictures in for consultation, "the transport of the patient...to the hospital or the physician's office could be replaced, and this approach could potentially save the health care system money," the report said.

To assess the project, researchers used a statistical analysis that measures agreement when two groups rate the same object. The value ranged from one to zero, where one is perfect agreement and zero is no agreement.

The wound study found the level of agreement between the remote and face-to-face evaluations was "very good," with values of up to 0.94, the study said.

The report was published in the February issue of the Archives of Dermatology.

Teleconsultation

"We were able to show for the first time that telemedicine for chronic wounds is feasible under routine conditions using this new generation of mobile telephones and direct transfer via e-mail," the authors said.

"We had the impression that a high percentage of the problems related to leg ulcers could be solved with this type of teleconsultation," they added. *Reuters*

Update on the coxibs

By Rafael R. Castillo

MEDICAL FILES

WE HAVE received inquiries from arthritis patients who are in a quandary whether to continue taking their antiarthritis pills, popularly known as coxibs or COX-2 blockers. This became a serious concern when rofecoxib (Vioxx) was voluntarily pulled out of the market by its manufacturer last September. Since then, drug regulatory authorities in the United States and Europe have conducted a thorough review on the long-term safety of the other coxibs in the market.

Many anticipated the worst-case scenario of the other coxibs also being withdrawn from the market. Many patients whose arthritic pains have been dramatically relieved by their coxib started becoming anxious over the prospect of going back to their previous medications which were not as effective as the coxibs and which had more side-effects, particularly stomach irritation.

It's amazing that some patients didn't seem to mind the potential risk of a stroke or a heart attack with prolonged continuous intake of a coxib. They would rather take the small risk rather than endure the intolerable pain of their arthritis.

Here to stay?

We have a bit of good news for these patients. Coxibs are apparently here to stay. The European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMEA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory committee have issued separate recommendations last week, particularly on the label changes specifying the precautions that have to be taken by physicians and their patients taking the drug.

Those who don't have any heart or blood-vessel disease can safely take coxibs, but those with established cardiovascular disease should only take it under their doctor's supervision.

Alternative treatment

The EMEA issued the following statement:

"Patients treated with COX-2 inhibitors who have previously been diagnosed as having a stroke, mini stroke or heart disease, should make a nonurgent appointment to see their doctor who will review their medication and recommend alternative treatment.

"Patients are advised that stopping COX-2 treatment will not cause any harm, but they are likely to need alternative treatment to control symptoms.

"Patients who have risk factors for heart disease or stroke [high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes or those who smoke] do not need to stop treatment, but should discuss their treatment with their doctor at their next routine appointment. He/she will consider whether it would be better to continue with their COX-2 inhibitor or change to another type of treatment, depending on their overall cardiovascular risks and risks of suffering gastrointestinal problems."

The following caution and guideline will also be required to appear on the label:

"Cardiovascular risk of treatment may increase with dose and duration of exposure, therefore the lowest effective dose should be used for the shortest duration possible.

"In some patients, with insufficient relief from symptoms, an increased dose may increase efficacy. In the absence of increased therapeutic benefit after two weeks, other therapeutic options should be considered. In all cases, the patient's response to therapy should be reevaluated periodically.

"The decision to prescribe a COX-2 specific inhibitor should be based on assessment of the individual patient's overall risk."

Combining with other drugs

The new labels will also include precautions in combining COX-2 selective inhibitors with drugs for high blood pressure, i.e., ACE inhibitors (angiotensin II receptor antagonists), especially in the elderly or in dehydrated patients. Patients should be adequately hydrated and consideration should be given to periodic monitoring of kidney function to avoid the risk of kidney failure. This is standard precaution for all nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

The US FDA advisory committee on COX-2 medicines reaffirmed that coxibs were important treatment options for arthritis patients.

The committee has cited Pfizer's commitment to conduct long-term studies on the cardiovascular profiles of its coxibs Celebrex and Bextra. Other manufacturers of coxibs should take the same initiative to dispel any doubt on the safety of their brands.

Hoping for a rosy future of science in Philippines

By Catherine Young
2bU! correspondent

COMMENTARY

THERE ARE three things the Philippines is known for: great food, great hospitality and great beaches.

The first is a no-brainer: our hedonistic menu is every gastronomic connoisseur's dream. The second needs no explanation: we are generous to foreigners, almost to a fault. The third is also self-explanatory: we are blessed with the most beautiful natural resources that serve as a stark contrast to today's cosmopolitan times.

Sadly, what we are not known for is science. And because of this, we are at risk of rendering our legacy as temporal. We are in danger of being forgotten.

My physics professor once remarked that all the great civilizations in the history of mankind flourished because they were founded on research, on thought. Theirs was a legacy that was indelible to the generations that were to come. The things that they were preoccupied with were feats of science and engineering, questions of philosophy, and matters of leadership.

However, in a country beleaguered with economic crises and a political circus, and with the rich more concerned with parties than molecules, it is difficult to call attention to the state of scientific achievements in the Philippines.

Deteriorating culture of research

It is unfortunate that the lack of patronage to a field that most people either dismiss as boring or too difficult to be appreciated has caused our culture of research to deteriorate.

But to say that there are no great Filipino scientists would be false, for there are many who have remained dedicated to this pursuit of discovery.

And as one who has decided to devote the rest of her life to science, I can only hope I can stand on the shoulders of these giants, or at least clamber up on their wornout sandals.

There is a common wave of angst and lethargy that engulfs the 20-somethings at a crucial point in their lives. I see it even now, when my generation is graduating from college and going off into new phases of their lives. The motivation dwindles as the deadline for making decisions hovers ever so near.

It's as though saying yes to another few years of medical, law or business school marks either the point-of-no-return or just another way to pass the time while we think of what we really want to do with our lives.

Powerless or pro-active?

It takes a lot of courage to accept what we cannot do, and even more courage to suck it up and do it anyway. As today's youth, we can choose to remain powerless or we can choose to be pro-active.

It was a long road to deciding that I will dedicate a good part of my life to molecular biology, especially since I wanted to have every career imaginable when I was younger. But upon deciding to take up this course in college, choosing research over the more popular field of medicine was the easy decision. Apart from my aversion to blood and gore, I wanted to be in a field where I would be needed, where my passion and my ability can be best utilized, and where I can help a lot of people.

There are no regrets to this decision, and hopefully, I will be one of the people who will not have given up amid the often frustrating days in the lab.

Long-term prosperity

What I want to come out of this, at the very least, is for us to cement our potentials today. I want Filipinos to prosper for the long term, instead of intermittently.

Moreover, I want the world to recognize us for the greatest of our achievements. I want our country to mean more to the world than just white-sand beaches and pit stops for reality shows. Ultimately, I just don't want us to whine more than we do.

I hope our generation will be one of the lucky ones who will sow the seeds and be one of the luckier ones who can reap the harvest.

(The author is a graduating BS Molecular Biology and Biotechnology senior at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. She plans to take graduate studies in the United States in autumn.)

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Removing all wisdom teeth

DO I need to have all my wisdom teeth removed?—Jo P.

Not all wisdom teeth need to be removed. If the wisdom tooth comes in straight and you can use it for chewing food, then most likely you'll get to keep it for a long time without any problems. But if your wisdom tooth is impacted against another tooth and is causing pus infection and causes you pain then it would be better if your dentist remove it.

E-mail your questions to dentalqs@yahoo.com.

DOH endorses operation diabetes

THE DEPARTMENT of Health has thrown its support behind a privately initiated national program for diabetes prevention and control when it recently endorsed Operation Diabetes, a joint program of the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (Amhop) and Herbcare Corp.

In its letter endorsing Operation Diabetes addressed to Amhop president Dr. Guia G. Abad, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said: "We arrived at this decision after a thorough review of its objectives which are to help diabetics cope with their disease and help the nation curb the rising incidence of diabetes by empowering the people themselves, particularly the diabetics, to take a major role in their own healthcare and in the prevention of diabetes. We fully agree and endorse these objectives and program strategy."

Effective program

Dayrit also lauded the program, saying that "within such a short period, Operation Diabetes has proven itself an effective community-based program that has helped substantially in raising the awareness of our people about diabetes."

Operation Diabetes was launched in October 2001 by Amhop, the national organization of over 1,500 medical doctors who run the country's network of public health centers, and Herbcare, a private company engaged in the production of natural health products. Since then Operation Diabetes has actively waged a public information campaign about diabetes, assisted in the conduct of blood sugar screenings and helped diabetics organize themselves into diabetics clubs. Abad, who is program chair, said they intend to organize over 400 more diabetic clubs in the next five years.

Public info campaign

Abad also announced that starting middle of March, they would show on the three government TV channels "Alamin ang Diabetes," an educational film on diabetes that is expected to heighten public awareness of this disease.

There is still no cure for diabetes and its incidence is increasing at an alarming rate.

"We believe that educating the public about diabetes is the key to prevention," Abad said.

OPENING CEREMONY
Minister Akio Egawa (second from left), deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Japan, leads the recent opening ceremony for the Voice and Swallowing Unit at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. Doctors Antonio B. Sison (right), VMMC director; Celso Ureta (second from right), president; and Rene Tuazon (left), VP of the Philippine Laryngectomee Foundation Inc. are also present during the occasion.

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Hassle-free broadband with PLDT myDSL

PLDT just made your online experience so much easier. No more complicated forms to fill out when applying for a broadband service. No more unpaid Internet bills to overwhelm you every month. PLDT cuts through the online chase with the country's first ever prepaid broadband service called Easy-to-Apply Prepay PLDT myDSL.

Now, the most trusted name in broadband, PLDT myDSL, presents a unique innovation that helps you get the most out of your DSL service. Easy-to-Apply Prepay PLDT myDSL allows you to subscribe for six months to one year when you pay your PLDT myDSL subscription in advance.

But that's not all. Avail now of the prepaid six months PLDT myDSL subscription and get half a month free. Choose the one year prepaid PLDT myDSL subscription and get a one full month absolutely free. With Easy-to-Apply Prepay PLDT myDSL, you have the freedom and versatility to fulfill your online needs without wasting time or money.

PLDT also makes it very convenient to avail of the Easy-to-Apply Prepay PLDT myDSL. Just visit a PLDT Business Office, present a valid ID and pay the requisite amount for a six-month or one year PLDT myDSL subscription in cash or check. For applicants who don't have their own PLDT landline, they need only to present a Letter of Authorization from the PLDT landline's Subscriber on Record together with any valid form of identification.

Easy-to-Apply Prepay PLDT myDSL is perfect for globetrotting expats staying in the Philippines for only months at a time. It is also great for people who need the speed and convenience of broadband for limited periods.

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Backed by the largest and most advanced Internet infrastructure and integrated networking facilities, PLDT myDSL remains as the preferred service of 8 out of 10 broadband users in the country.

Know more how Easy-to-Apply Prepay PLDT myDSL can fulfill your broadband needs. Log on to www.pldtmypad.com or visit your nearest PLDT Business Office for details.

BRIDGEWAY FOODCOURT AT THE NEW MEDICAL CITY

The Bridgeway Foodcourt operated and managed by the Yummy Corner Entertainment Corp at The New Medical City recently went into full swing of operation with its blessing and formal opening last Dec. 2. A delight to see, the Bridgeway Foodcourt is ideally located at the 2nd level of Mati Tower (Medical Arts Tower) easily accessible from various entrances through the numerous bridgeways and elevators. Presently open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. to serve the dining requirements of all patients, visitors and friends, resident doctors and doctors clinics, hospital staff and employees and various medical offices with its unique personal food deliveries and in-house dining. Shown during the opening are Com. Edmundo Reyes, Virginia Alano, Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, Governor Carmencita Reyes, Louie Vega, Benita Macalagay, lawyer Romela Bengzon, lawyer Maria Del Carmen Vega, Myriam Montelibano, Carmelita Desuasido, Rep. Edmund Reyes Jr, architect Noel Sun and Yolanda Sun.

Tubig Para sa Barangay Inauguration
TUBIG PARA SA BARANGAY
SAN JUAN, TAYTAY
FEBRUARY 3, 2005

NO MORE WATER WOES

Over 60,000 urban poor citizens living along the East and West Banks of the Manggahan Floodway in the cities of Pasig, Cainta and Taytay, got a rare chance to thank President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the 24-hour water supply they had been enjoying ever since the Manila Water Company laid out major pipelines in the area under its Tubig Para Sa Barangay (TPSB) program. President Arroyo, through her Patubig ni Gloria project, had partnered with the Ayala-led water concessionaire to bring clean and affordable water supply to the depressed communities of Manggahan Floodway which previously sourced its supply from contaminated wells and private vendors who charged exorbitant rates. Photo shows President Arroyo turning the valve at a piped-in TPSB system in San Lorenzo Ruis, part of the San Juan Resettlement Project in Taytay, Rizal, and home to over 2,000 urban poor families. Looking on are Taytay Mayor Ricardo 'Joric' Gacula; Rizal Governor Casimiro 'Ito' Ynares; and Manila Water senior group director Miguel J. Navarette.

ILOILO HERE WE COME

A roving team of young adults tour offices in Iloilo City to give away samples of Ovaltine ProActive. The new Ovaltine beverage is a delicious light chocolate drink for young adults who have very active lifestyles as it provides them the breakthrough Amino Pro-B formula, a unique combination of Amino Acids and Vitamin B Complex. A daily drink of Ovaltine Pro Active will help them be physically and mentally alert even beyond office hours.

BELLY DANCING AND STRIP TEASE AT ITS BEST

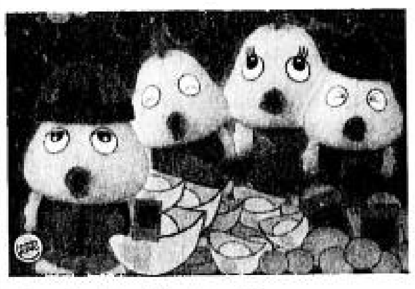
Pinnacle Health Pointe is one of the premiere fitness and health club that is first to offer belly dancing and strip tease as part of its fitness program. Especially targeting those young, middle-age and active female genre, these new and innovative aerobic programs are a fun and proven way of eradicating those nasty flabs in the abdomen as well as attaining the almost perfect abs and [illegible]

The [illegible] program is part of Pinnacle Health Pointe's irresistible offering for resolutions 2005. Call [illegible]8-18[illegible] and 633-3472.

ProductFILES

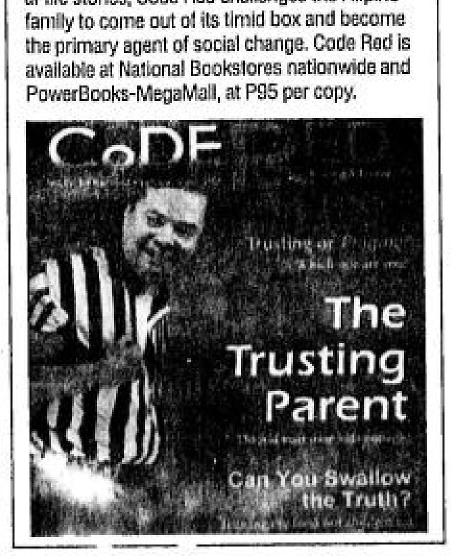
Crow and prosper

BURGER King welcomes the Chinese New Year with the lovable Prosperity Chickens Family. These collectible plush toys may be hung above door frames, windows or inside cars and are believed to bring good luck and many blessings. Collect all 4. There's one for every member of the family: Mama Chicken, Papa Chicken, Achie Chiken and Sioti Chicken. Get one free whenever you buy the Chicken Sandwich with cheese. Offer good until Feb. 28 only.



Code Red's 3rd issue

CODE RED, a family magazine advocating the values of servant-leadership has come out with its third issue, January to March 2005. Talking in a language everyone understands, the magazine devotes distinct sections for parents and adults as well as the youth. Employing the power of real-life stories, Code Red challenges the Filipino family to come out of its timid box and become the primary agent of social change. Code Red is available at National Bookstores nationwide and PowerBooks-MegaMall, at P95 per copy.



The Shang Grand Tower gets topped off

28 MONTHS following its ground-breaking, the 250-unit The Shang Grand Tower was recently topped off in fitting ceremonies at the project site.

With celebrity host Johnny Litton as Master of Ceremonies, the Kuok Group vice chair Tomas C. Zita Jr. led the ceremonial toast celebrating the self-funded P2 billion development's topping off with SGV's Dave Balangue, chair and managing partner, Centrum Condominium Corporation's Mila Garcia leading the guests of honor.

The 46-storey the Shang Grand Tower located in Legaspi Village in the heart of Makati's Central Business District, is scheduled for completion in late 2005. Only a few units are available for sale.

For more information, please call 811-1819 or 811-0556 or visit www.theshanggrandtower.com

TOM Zita Jr. and Vince Formoso (2nd and 4th from left) with SGV executives, Mildred Ramos, market circle leader (extreme left) and Dave Balangue (3rd from left), chair and managing partner.

THE KUOK Group vice chair Tom Zita, Jr. (extreme Left) with (from left) Kathy Zita, Dieter Reichert, Nena Tantoco, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco and Rico Tantoco.

TOM Zita Jr. leads the ceremonial toast in celebration of The Shang Grand Tower's topping off.

'Pangalan Ko, Karapatan Ko'

ABOUT 2.6 million Filipinos today exist without a birth certificate. Technically, they don't exist at all to think that it is the first right of every human being he or she has to enjoy.

Being deprived of this right follows the other privileges denied. Most of these unregistered children have no access to education, healthcare, child protection, and other civil rights. The most affected of these are the Muslims, indigenous peoples, children in need of special protection which are usually the street children, youth offenders, the mentally challenged, trafficked children, and child laborers.

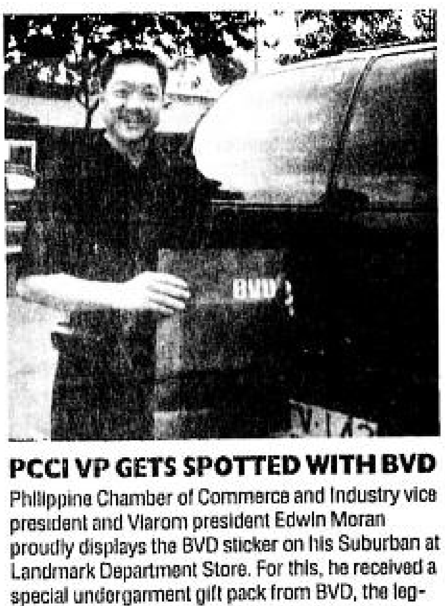
With this alarming rate, leading global organization on children's rights Plan Philippines partnered with the National Statistics to put a solution to the problem. With the "Pangalan Ko, Karapatan Ko (My Name, My Right") project which aims to achieve a 100 percent birth registration by 2010.

During the pre-launch activity held recently at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, NSO Administrator Carmelita Ericta stressed the commitment of the government agency to pursue this advocacy. To do this Ericta emphasized the steps the NSO is doing like institutionalizing the system, setting up program and sector task forces.

The core program of the project is the delegation of birth registration to the barangay civil registration system to assure that everyone will be covered.

"Children are at the heart of everything we do," said Mr. Supriyanto, Plan Philippines' country manager.

The Universal Birth Registration through the Birth Registration Project (UBR) was formally launched on Feb. 23 in time for the Civil Registration Month while the UBR global launch takes place simultaneously at the United Nations Headquarters in New York headed by Nobel Prize awardee Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Plan International CEO Tom Miller.



PCCI VP GETS SPOTTED WITH BVD

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president and Viarom president Edwin Moran proudly displays the BVD sticker on his Suburban at Landmark Department Store. For this, he received a special undergarment gift pack from BVD, the legendary American brand. Moran, who also sits on the board of the University of Perpetual Help in Rizal, describes BVD undergarments as 'cool and comfortable even when it's hot and humid.' BVD stands for Bradley, Vorhees and Day, an imported men's line of high end, high quality undergarments now available at SM Department Stores in Megamall, Southmall, Manila, Makati, North Edsa and Fairview, Landmark and Plaza Fair Makati.

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LTW TECHNOLOGY (SUBIC) INTERNATIONAL, INC. is a new company engaged in designing and manufacturing waterproof connectors and cable assembly is in need of the following top caliber applicants:

> **SALES ENGINEERS**
> **MARKETING AND MARKET INTELLIGENCE**

Requirements:

- Graduate of any Engineering or related course;
- Experience in R & D, sales and marketing job is a plus factor;
- Knows how to operate 2D software, 3D software, EE software, Windows XP and office (*for Sales Engineer Position*)
- With working experience in mechanical, electronics and electrical design or as Sales or Marketing is an advantage;
- Is proficient in any of the following languages: Japanese, German, Spanish, Italian or French
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Dynamic, team player, goal motivated, loyal and trustworthy

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
#23 Efficiency Avenue corner Innovative St. SBIP-1, SBFZ 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-2736 to 37 Fax No. (047) 252-2735
E-mail: sally@ltw-tech.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LTW TECHNOLOGY (SUBIC) INTERNATIONAL, INC. is a new company engaged in designing and manufacturing waterproof connectors and cable assembly and products is in need of the following top caliber applicants:

> **MOLD DESIGN ENGINEERS**
> **R & D ENGINEERS**
> **ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS**

Requirements:

- Graduate of Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics Engineering;
- With four (4) years experience in mold, research or design;
- With solid experience as Manager or Supervisor;
- Knowledgeable in Protel, Orcad, CAM350 Autocad, OSD, Pro-E or Solid Works;
- With work experiences in plastic molding, die casting, metal parts or injection tool or GPS wireless equipment telecommunications; electronic equipments...
- Mandarin speaking is a plus factor but not pre-requisite;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and;
- Dynamic, team player, goal motivated, loyal and trustworthy

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
#23 Efficiency Avenue corner Innovative St. SBIP-1, SBFZ 2222
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PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
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> 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
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> Have completed Residency Training in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Cardiology in PCP and PCC acredited Institutions.
> Submit a research proposal
> Certificate of Fellowship

** Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2005*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on April 1, 2005*

General Requirements for Application

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the Weighted General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs)
5., Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

** Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2005*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on April 1, 2005*

For further inquiries, please contact
Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09192885303) or
Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163021735)
with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and
Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID # 05-07

The **PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION Bids & Awards Committee (PITC-BAC)** invites local manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors & traders of pharmaceutical products who can meet the following minimum requirements for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of various locally manufactured or sourced medicines :

- In the Pharmaceutical business for at least three (3) years and still in operation
- With Stockholders' Equity or Capital Account of at least P5 Million as of December 31,2003 or December 31, 2004.
- Must have valid License to Operate (LTO) issued by the Bureau of Food & Drugs (BFAD) as Drug Manufacturer/Distributor/ Wholesaler /Trader
- Must have a valid Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) issued by BFAD for each product offered
- If a distributor, must submit Certificate(s) of Exclusive Distributorship issued by the manufacturer, owner or trader for the specific products offered.

Estimated budget is FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P500 Million)

Bid documents will be available for issuance during office hours starting March 2, 2005 until March 14, 2005, weekdays only, from the BAC Secretariat c/o Mrs. Helen R. Muncal at the 4th Floor of the NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St. Salcedo Village, Makati City after payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P5,500.00). However, PITC-accredited pharmaceutical suppliers who have been issued Accreditation Certificates by PITC as of March 2, 2005 shall be provided with the bid documents at a minimal cost of P200.00.

A Pre-Bid conference is scheduled on March 16, 2005 at 10:00AM at the Penthouse of NDC Building. Bidders may submit their query/ies , if any , in writing to the BAC Secretariat through Fax Nos. 892-2021/ 892-2054 not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Only bid documents of bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives on March 30, 2005 at 9:00 AM, Penthouse, NDC Building.

The particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

PITC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, waive any defects or informalities therein and/or accept the offer/s most advantageous and beneficial to the government. Further, the PITC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the prospective bidders for any expenses incurred in the processing of their eligibility to bid and/or in the preparation of the bid.

(SGD) **MARLENE R. LOPEZ**
Chair, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI- Feb 26, 27 & March 5, 2005)

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CALOOCAN

LOT 1 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 56 Blk 12-A, Ilang-Ilang St., Sunny Homes, Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price : 428,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 50 sqm. F.A.: 32 sqm.
Lot 69 Blk 24, Lerida St., Tierra Nova Royale, Phase Iii, Bo. Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 242 sqm. F.A.: 85 sqm.
(L10B7) 19 Kalayaan St., Franville 5 Subd., Camarin
Minimum Bid Price : 771,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 166 sqm.
#289 Camarin Rd., Camarin
Minimum Bid Price : 2,559,000.00

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 264 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 56, Yellowbelle St., Area C, Phse I, Camarin
Minimum Bid Price : 502,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 41 sqm. F.A.: 93 sqm.
Lot 15/Blk 8, 885 Brgy. 175 Robes Franville II Subd., Camarin
Minimum Bid Price : 1,035,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 34 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
Lot 11-G/Blk 9, Unit 11-E Guijo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 436,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 23 sqm. F.A.: 43 sqm.
Lot 11-E/Blk 9, Unit 11-E Guijo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 283,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 31 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 11-D/Blk 9, Guijo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 392,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 30 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 11-C/Blk 9, Guijo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 408,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 43 sqm. F.A.: 66 sqm.
Lot 11-B/Blk 9, Guijo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 549,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 45 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
Lot 11-H/Blk 9, Guijo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 646,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 24 sqm. F.A.: 46 sqm.
Lot 11-F/Blk 9, Guijo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 302,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 112 sqm. F.A.: 198 sqm.
(Lot 6303) 14 Mother Ignacia Ave., Grace Park (West)
Minimum Bid Price : 2,668,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 287 sqm. F.A.: 30 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 9, Guijo Street, Silanganan Subdivision, Llano
Minimum Bid Price : 824,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 281 sqm. F.A.: 127 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 9, Guijo Street, Silanganan Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price : 1,146,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 218 sqm. F.A.: 154 sqm.
Lot 40 Blk 12, # 157 Vista Verde Avenue, Vista Verde Subdivision, Llano
Minimum Bid Price : 1,402,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 120 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
(Lot 17-B/Blk 354) 132 Binhagan St., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 1,822,000.00

LAS PIÑAS CITY

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 350 sqm. F.A.: 165 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 30, # 109 Camino Real Street, Pilar Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,955,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 13/ Blk 4, # 19-B Heartthrob St., Santos Homes, Pulang Lupa
Minimum Bid Price : 2,284,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 63 sqm. F.A.: 52 sqm.
L7B10 Santan St. Camella Townhomes,Talon3
Minimum Bid Price : 832,000.00

MAKATI

LOT 22 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 127 sqm.
Unit 333 9Th Floor, Sagittarius Residential Condominium Building I, Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price : 5,284,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 309 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk16 No.1720 Escuela St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price : 6,397,000.00

LOT 24 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 86 sqm.
Unit 202 Jackson Bldg., Pasay Rd.
Minimum Bid Price : 3,734,000.00

MALABON

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 294 sqm. F.A.: 116 sqm.
(Lot 31 Blk 10) 31 R. Diaz St., Merville Subd., Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,154,000.00

LOT 26 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 494 sqm.
(Lot 7) #18 Interior M.Aquino St., Niugan
Minimum Bid Price : 571,000.00

MANDALUYONG

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 93 sqm. F.A.: [illegible] sqm.
Lot 24-A Agli[illegible] (Blume[illegible] Cor Gabriel Sts., Old Zaniga, Mandaluyong City
WITHDRAWN

MANILA

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 217 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
Lot 21-D-4 #2401 Int. 21 Dagohoy, Singalong, Malate
Minimum Bid Price : 2,667,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 180 sqm. F.A.: 168 sqm.
Lot 2, # 306, Verdad Street, Sampaloc
Minimum Bid Price : 3,060,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 278 sqm. F.A.: 765 sqm.
2234-2242 Karapatan St., Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 4,137,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 73 sqm. F.A.: 84 sqm.
(L1B15/Super Blk 7/ Area 1) 358 Sta. Margarita Cor Isabel Sts., Tondo
Minimum Bid Price : 499,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 56 sqm. F.A.: 84 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 76, No. 323 Zabala Street, Tondo
Minimum Bid Price : 801,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 398 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
L5B1 Rolling Hills Dr., Monterey Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 725,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 231 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 1-B, #35 A. Paraluman St., Parang
Minimum Bid Price : 600,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 679 sqm. F.A.: 94 sqm.
#126 Interior Nat'L.Road, Bayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,487,000.00

LOT 36 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 373 sqm.
(Lot 35-A-2-A) #78 Interior National Road, Putatan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,266,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 518 sqm. F.A.: 117 sqm.
Lot 283, #9 Sacred Heart St., San Jose Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 3,366,000.00

PARANAQUE

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 175 sqm. F.A.: 192 sqm.
Lots 20 & 21, Block 1, Matthew St., Annex 35, Better Living Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,000,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 80 sqm. F.A.: 102 sqm.
Lot 12/Blk 1, Annex 42, Better Living Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 803,000.00

LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 364 sqm.
Lot 45 Blk 27, #31 Pearl St., Severina Diamond Subdivision, Brgy. Marcelo Green
Minimum Bid Price : 1,968,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 250 sqm. F.A.: 204 sqm.
15119 St. Theresa St., San Agustin Village, Brgy. Moonwalk
Minimum Bid Price : 1,814,000.00

LOT 42 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 93 sqm.
Unit 1404, 14Th Floor, Bayview Int'L. Towers, Tower I, Roxas Blvd.
Minimum Bid Price : 3,558,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 502 sqm. F.A.: 236 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-A, Int. Of Papa Pio St., Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,868,000.00

LOT 44 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 38 sqm.
(Unit B2-14-3-J2-4) No. 3-A Papaya Bldg. Ii, Cluster 14, Westmont Village, Parañaque City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,011,000.00

PASAY

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 61 sqm. F.A.: 200 sqm.
Lot C-2-1 Unit 5 Hernandez Townhomes, 56 Don Hernandez St., San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price : 2,940,000.00

PASIG

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 244 sqm. F.A.: 42 sqm.
Lot 16 & 17 Blk 6, # 37 Intramuros St., Metropolis Village, Brgy. Sta. Lucia
Minimum Bid Price : 1,482,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 202 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 6, # 52 Kaunlaran St., Rosario 5 Subdivision, Brgy. Sta. Lucia
Minimum Bid Price : 1,198,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 200 sqm. F.A.: 125 sqm.
(L27B42) #14 Romblon St., Bago Bantay
Minimum Bid Price : 2,092,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 482 sqm. F.A.: 196 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 7 #8 Promenade Lane, Blueridge B Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 9,153,000.00

LOT 50 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63 sqm.
Unit 712-B & 712-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,338,000.00

LOT 51 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63 sqm.
Unit 612-B & 612-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,338,000.00

LOT 52 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63 sqm.
Unit 312-B & 312-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,218,000.00

LOT 53 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 44 sqm.
Unit 117, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 1,929,000.00

LOT 54 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 29 sqm.
Unit 116, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 1,267,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 1-A Jasmin St., Dona Juana/ Gilarmi Subd., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price : 1,947,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 229 sqm. F.A.: 64 sqm.
L50B7 Sta Fe & Nieva Sts., Amlacville Subd., Commonwealth, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price : 928,000.00

LOT 57 - WAREHOUSE BLDG
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 155 sqm.
L9 B6 #83 F Manalo St Pinagkaisahan, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 5,788,000.00

LOT 58 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 80 sqm.
Unit 201, 2F Union Square Condo., 15Th Ave.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,290,000.00

LOT 59 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 50 sqm.
U3 3/F Rsg Condominium, Ermin Garcia St., Brgy Pinagkaisahan,Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 933,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 840 sqm.
L11B1 & L2B5 Kasiyahan St Bgy Holy Spirit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,134,000.00

LOT 61 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 36 sqm.
Unit A L11A Iriga Terraces, La Loma
Minimum Bid Price : 816,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 364 sqm. F.A.: 159 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 33 Butler St., Tumbok Bronx St., Fairmont I Subd. North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 2,953,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 416 sqm.
L6 B2 Remarville Ave., Remarville Subd., Seminary Rd., Bagbag, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 3,860,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 488 sqm.
Lot 3 Quezon St., Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 2,957,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 869 sqm.
Lot 199-B-3-K, Outskirt Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,217,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 526 sqm. F.A.: 384 sqm.
Lot 25 & 27/Blk 41, 98 Alley 2 Corner Alley 7, Project 6
Minimum Bid Price : 5,208,000.00

LOT 67 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 67 sqm.
Unit 407 4F, Mission Garden Condo, #59 Scout Ybardolaza St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,601,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 461 sqm. F.A.: 300 sqm.
11- B Eligano St., San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 6,346,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 45 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
(Lot 58-C/B225) #17-C Bernardo St., Brgy Mariblo, San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 938,000.00

LOT 70 - CONDO UNIT
L.A.: sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
Unit#S 3 & 4, 3Rd Flr. Heart Of The City Condominium, Sgt. Esguerra Corner Eugenio Lopez St., Brgy. South Triangle
Minimum Bid Price : 3,192,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 217 sqm. F.A.: 181 sqm.
(Lots 3/4 Blk3) Saling Lahi Homes, Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora District
Minimum Bid Price : 1,519,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 52 sqm. F.A.: 109 sqm.
Lot 27-A, Portion Of Lot 27/Blk 33, #1-A (Townhouse) Bakawan St., Veterans Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,718,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 94 sqm. F.A.: 247 sqm.
L49B15 48 Sto.Nino St. Villa Espana
Minimum Bid Price : 2,596,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 192 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 4, 4Th St., Pleasant Homes, Sto.Nino, Angono
Minimum Bid Price : 800,000.00

LOT 75 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 28 sqm.
Unit 306, Covina Townhouse Condominium, Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 406,000.00

LOT 76 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 28 sqm.
Unit 307, Covina Townhouse Condominium, Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 406,000.00

LOT 77 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 70 sqm.
Unit 103, Covina Townhouse Condominium, Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 832,000.00

LOT 78 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 70 sqm.
Unit 104, Covina Townhouse Condominium, Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 832,000.00

LOT 79 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 70 sqm.
Unit 105, Covina Townhouse Condominium, Mayamot, Antipolo
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F.A.: 70 sqm.
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Minimum Bid Price : 832,000.00

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LOT 82 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 28 sqm.
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F.A.: 28 sqm.
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Minimum Bid Price : 406,000.00

LOT 85 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 28 sqm.
Unit 308, Covina Townhouse Condominium, Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 406,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 75 sqm. F.A.: 66 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 5, Unit D-20, Far East Asia Village, Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 823,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 60 sqm. F.A.: 53 sqm.
L8 B13 House Maroon II, Richgate Subd., Mambugan, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 598,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 544 sqm. F.A.: 276 sqm.
Lots 7 Blk Milflores Cor Ader Sts., La Colina, Antipolo Valley Subd., Bulao, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 2,337,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 116 sqm.
Lot 22 Blk. 1 #15 Macopa St., Nayong Silangan Subd., Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 1,039,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,912 sqm. F.A.: 514 sqm.
Lot 11 Don Celso S. Tuazon Rd., Valley Golf Subd., Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price : 6,088,000.00

LOT 91 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 5, Alicante St., Vista Verde Executive Village, Phase 6, Sto. Domingo, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price : 776,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 450 sqm. F.A.: 165 sqm.
Lot 6, #182 Sunset Drive, Brookside Subd., Sto. Domingo, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price : 2,394,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 295 sqm. F.A.: 187 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 12, # 111 Sunrise Dr, Brokside Hills Subd., Cainta
Minimum Bid Price : 1,028,000.00

LOT 94 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 293 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
No. 252 Sampaguita St., Cainta Greenland Executive Village, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price : 1,501,000.00

LOT 95 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 180 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
Lot 4-A-5 Ilang-Ilang St., Aranzazu Subd., Malanday, San Mateo
Minimum Bid Price : 577,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 481 sqm. F.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 19, #22 Cruzeiro St. Meralco Sub, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price : 1,364,000.00

LOT 97 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 206 sqm. F.A.: 151 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 21 #23 Rial St. Meralco Village, San Juan, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price : 990,000.00

SAN JUAN

LOT 98 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 443 sqm. F.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 7/Blk 101, Urbino St., Kabayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 5,383,000.00

LOT 99 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 325 sqm. F.A.: 145 sqm.
Lot 8 / Blk 1, # 104(New) Alley 1, Dona Filomena Subd., West Crame
Minimum Bid Price : 3,816,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 100 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 403 sqm. F.A.: 217 sqm.
Lot 10 1308 Mabolo St., Christ The King Subdivision, Brgy. Bagbaguin (Ilbalso)
Minimum Bid Price : 2,386,000.00

LOT 101 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 270 sqm.
Lot 7-A-1 #2121 Coloong II Road Cor. M. Ramos St., Mango Groove Subd., Brgy. Coloong II
Minimum Bid Price : 304,000.00

LOT 102 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 525 sqm.
Lot 2 Palomares Compound, Brgy. Coloong Uno (1)
Minimum Bid Price : 224,000.00

LOT 103 - TOWNHOUSE UNIT
L.A.: 113 sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
(Lot 1) No. 1 Antonette Townhomes I, Pasong Balite St., Marulas
Minimum Bid Price : 622,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 500 sqm. F.A.: 90 sqm.
(Lot 42-A Pasolo Lolomboy Estate) #3986) Pasolo Rd, Pasolo
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LOT 105 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
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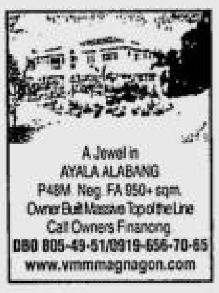
NEAR LA SALLE BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/3tb/grge/mdsrm/deck P3.610M up 8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

MUNTINLUPA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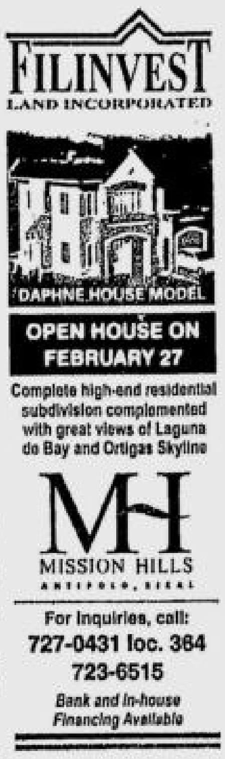
RIZAL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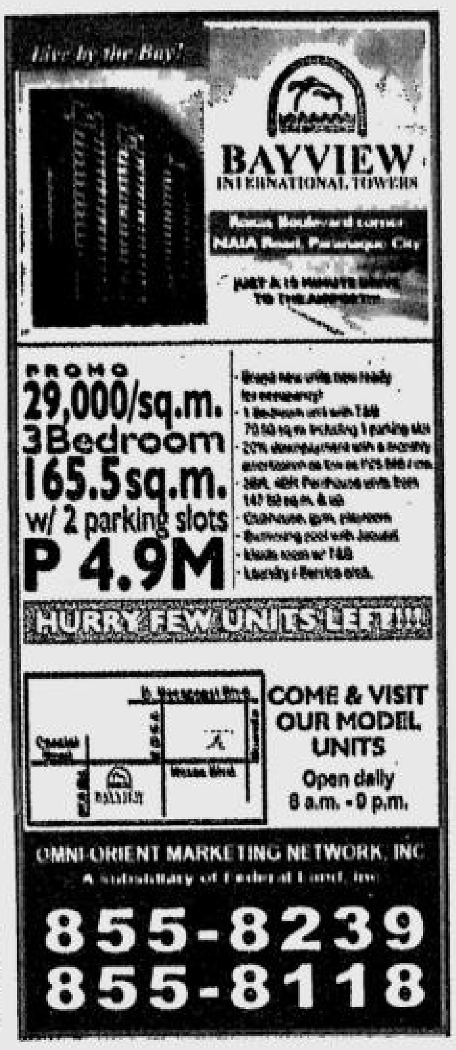
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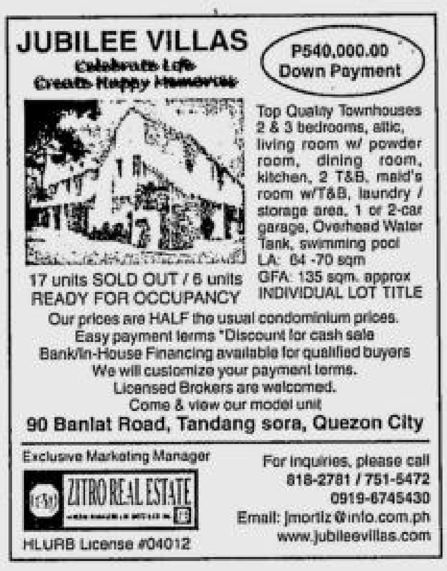
CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY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METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.20m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort 10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

12M Condo Nr. C5 DFort 2-4BR 10%DP Move-In 0927-3308614

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CUBAO Condo 1.5M 9126976

EASTWOOD 3BR3TB + Lndry / Utility Rm 77m² Panoramic River View Pool 24Hr Sec 4.5M neg 09184845443

Rdy 4 occupancy Unit 21-D Olympic Twr I Eastwood City 54m² 1BR 12.5m² basement 3prkng 4.5M Call 4363441 ; 09178394595

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Beautiful Penthse 255m² + Park + R'deck 3BR 4TB Exclnt loc. GHills Avail. for Urgent Sale P13M Call 2977534

P2.4M QUADRILLON MANSION M. Paterno St. & N. Domingo San Juan Call Reynold @ CP# 0917-4327579

LOT

ALABANG

548m² WEST GROOVE AYALA Jun 09177182116

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

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BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

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STUDIO TYPE P5T Mand. Tel 6338536 Jazel or Marlyn

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PROJ 8 2/4BR 2TB 09179680923

PASAY

PASAY NR EDSA MRT LRT 1-3 BR W/PARKING 2318973

QUEZON CITY

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MIGUEL B. DELA PAZ was extra-judicially settled among his heirs as per Doc 83, Page 17, Book IX, Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Rafael B. Hilao, Jr. (PDI-Feb. 26, Mar. 5, & 12, 2005)

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ATTY. JIMMY MILLER ORTIZ

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 15, 2005 in Cologne, Germany at the age of 54.

His bereaved wife **ROSABETH PE-ORTIZ**; sons **JEROME, JEFFREY & JIMBO**; sister **BABY CHING**; brother & sister-in-law **RUDY & BEA**; brothers & sisters, brothers-in-law & sisters-in-law, nephews & nieces, mother-in-law **ESTEFANIA PALANCA-PE**, relatives & friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body will lie in state at the White Plains Chapel, #10 Nathan Road, White Plains, Quezon City on February 26, 27 & 28 and at the family's residence in Sagpon, Daraga, Albay from March 1 to 4.

Interment is on Saturday, March 5, 2005 at Sagpon, Daraga, Albay.

FLORIDA BLANDO VERGARA

entered eternal peace on February 21, 2005 at the age of 81 in Richmond, VA, USA.

She was preceeded in death by her parents, husband, **Jose F. Vergara** and 4 brothers.

She is survived by her daughters **Jocelyn V. Realubit & Gemma Vergara**; son-in-law, **Nathan Realubit**; beloved grandchildren, **Natalie & Josephine**; 2 sisters and 2 brothers, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, cousins, loving nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends at the Bliley Funeral Home on Thursday & Friday, from 6-9 p.m. The funeral service will be held at St. Edward's Catholic Church on Saturday, February 26 with interment to follow at Greenwood Memorial Gardens, Richmond, VA.

In Loving Memory

on the 19th Death Anniversary of

NEMESIO I. YABUT

1925 - 1986

Masses will be offered today, February 26, 2005, at the following churches:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish .... 6:00 a.m.
Orense St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
Sts. Peter & Paul .... 6:00 a.m.
P. Burgos St., Makati City
St. Alphonsus De Liguori Chapel .... 6:00 a.m.
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Sacred Heart Chapel .... 7:00 a.m.
San Antonio Village, Makati City
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish .... 12:15 p.m.
Forbes Park, Makati City
Sto. Niño De Paz Chapel .... 12:15 p.m.
Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City
Nuestra Sra. de Gracia Parish .... 6:00 p.m.
Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
St. John Bosco Parish .... 6:00 p.m.
Pasay Road, Makati City
St. Andrew, The Apostle Parish .... 6:30 p.m.
Bel-Air II, Makati City

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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AURELIANO S. REYES, Jr.

"Uncle Junior"

of San Francisco, California, USA

Peacefully joined the Lord on February 15, 2005 at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Aurelia**; children **Jocelyn** and **Armand, Ruben** and **Cecille, Mario**; grandchildren **Janine, AJ, EG, Rench**; brothers **Artemio, Reynaldo** (†), **Leonardo** (†) and sisters **Corazon, Elsa, Ester, Estrella** (†) and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be tomorrow, February 26, 2005 at the San Leonardo Cemetery after 9:00 a.m. Necrological Mass at the St. Bartholemew Parish Church, San Leonardo, N.E.

LEONILA MARCELO ESPINO

of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija
and Cabanatuan City
(wife of the late **Atty. Fernando Espino, Jr.**)

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 22, 2005 at the age 78.

Her bereaved children, **Francis & Flor Duran, Bodjie & Josie**; her grandchildren, **Ferdie, Frederick** and **Jenna**; her sisters **Leogarda** (†), **Mary** and **Albina**; her brothers **Felix** (†), **Leoncio, Teofilo** (†), **Francisco** and **Marciano**; brothers-in-law, **Amado** (†), **Arcadio** (†), **Lucio**; sisters-in-law, **Priscilla** (†), **Nieves** (†), **Aurora, Angelina** and **Rosita**; and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Ilagan Memorial Homes, Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 26, 2005 at Sagrada Famila Memorial, Capt. Pepe Subdivision, where a 9:00 a.m. funeral Mass will be held at the Sto. Niño Chapel, Capt. Pepe Subd., Cabanatuan City.

> "...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." – 2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS

JUNIOR PHILIPPINE SOCIETY for TRAINING and DEVELOPMENT
invites
all psychology, human resource, and management students to its 2ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

Jumpstart '05:
Strengthening the Youth's HROD Competencies
February 26, 2005
Golden Bay Hotel, Manila City

Program of Activities

07:30am-08:30am Registration
08:30am-10:30am Opening Ceremonies
"Building a Career in Human Resource and Organizational Development"
Mr. Eliseo C. Corpus, Jr.
Johnson & Son Learning Manager for Asia Pacific

10:30am-10:45am Coffee Break
10-45am-12:15pm Concurrent Sessions One
Track 1 – Character Based Competencies
"Life Orientations Method: Aiming for Utmost Productivity of the Youth"
Ms. Gem Zabala
Managing Director, *Alexander Consulting Group*

Track 2 – Professional-Innovative Competencies
"Unlocking Youth-Trainer's Creativity in Training and Development"
Mr. Jesse Francis N. Rebustillo
Classified Ads Division Manager, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

12:15nn-01:30pm Lunch Break
01:30pm-03:00pm Concurrent Sessions Two
Track 1 – Character Based Competencies
"S.P.A.R.K.L.E. – A Journey Towards Personal Effectiveness"
Mr. Hernan H. Espiritu
Consultant, *International Customer Mgt. Sys.* and *2005 PSTD Board Member*

Track 2 – Professional-Innovative Competencies
"HR, Luv Ko 'To"
Ms. Evie B. Abraham
HRD Head of *Chinatrust Philippines Commercial Bank Corporation*

03:00pm-03:15pm Coffee Break
03:15m-05:00pm Plenary Session 2
A Research Study Presentation *"The Profile of the Filipino Trainer"*
Ms. Ambhika Abella
Programs Dev't. Officer, *ATENEO Center for Organization, Research, & Dev't.*

"Holistic Development through Self-Awareness"
Mr. Arthur Luis P. Florentin
HR Head of *MERALCO* and *2005 PSTD President*

05:00pm-05:30pm Mini-Forum for School/Department Heads and Student Organization Advisers
05:30pm-08:00pm Fellowship Night
Awarding and Recognition Ceremonies

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[illegible]

NFA rice imports arrive

THE NATIONAL Food Authority assures continuous availability of rice across the country as domestic rice stocks have been augmented with the arrival of some 86,750 metric tons of rice imported by the government. The volume is part of the contracted 320,000 MT awarded to winning suppliers last January in a public bidding at the FTI Complex in Taguig. The balance of 233,250 MT are expected to reach the country by April 15, 2005 in different ports including Manila, Subic, Cebu, Davao, Surigao, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Bacolod and Zamboanga. According to NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr., the imported rice will form part of government's food security stocks in view of possible negative effects in local palay production due to an El Niño phenomenon. As of the third week of February, the country's total rice inventory is recorded at 2 million tons, sufficient to last for 69 days based on the average daily rice requirement of 29,000 tons. NFA stocks at 236,300 tons or 12 percent of the national total are good to last until the third week of May. Meanwhile, some 7,978.75 MT of rice through the US PL-480 program have also arrived in the country. A balance of 50,138.25 MT is yet to be unloaded. The US PL-480 program is a counter-trade accord between the US government and the government of the Philippines through the Department of Finance (DOF). For more information on NFA's food security efforts, please use the NFA Text Program by sending your inquiries, complaints and suggestions to mobile number 0917-6210927.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

CONTRACT FOR SECURITY SERVICES
Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 4,800,000.00
Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	March 7, 2005 – March 18, 2005 7:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	March 21 – 23, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	April 4 – 6, 2005 for a non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	April 12, 2005 9:00 A.M. Social Hall, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Bid Envelopes	April 20, 2005 9:00 A.M. Social Hall, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:
The Bidding Secretariat – Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – February 26 & March 5, 2005)

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- Reynaldo Reyes, Director, Asia Partnership, Inc. Philippines

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- [illegible], Project Manager, International Rectifier

"Leadership in its simplest form... This seminar is a must for anyone who both aspires to grow as a leader and desires to grow leaders."
- [illegible], Area Manager, Jollibee Foods Corporation

"In my 31 years of service in the corporate world, I have not come across any leadership program that captures in very simple yet powerfully clear principles of leading people. The program transcends old paradigms, and brings forth refreshing and inspiring concepts that not only are truly applicable in corporate relationships but also in other relationships which impact the ability of one to be a person of real influence."
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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Margarita T. Ambay	2848 Florencio de la Paz, Manila	Romeo A. Ambay SS#03-1948194-1	November 16, 2004
2)	Vilma De Guzman Aquino	Unknown	Eduardo E. Aquino SS#03-1557453-5	January 16, 2005
3)	Rosiemarie Azole	Unknown	Edgardo C. Azole SS#03-6657882-1	January 13, 2005
4)	Alfredo Barrientos	Unknown	Manuel Barrientos SS#03-1056745-3	May 19, 2004
5)	Remedios & Noel Buguina	1609 Milagros St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Claro Buguina SS#03-2090643-1	September 29, 2004
6)	Rowena Bustamante	Unknown	Nestor Bustamante SS#03-4822314-1	January 1, 2005
7)	Alberta Callo	Unknown	Simplicio Callo SS#03-1893469-3	November 26, 2004
8)	Ma. Teresa Escalante	Unknown	Rodelio Companero SS#06-0523793-5	November 27, 2004
9)	Lucas Dizon	Unknown	Levy P. Dizon SS#01-0682323-1	December 30, 2004
10)	John Michael Encarnacion	Unknown	Juanito S. Encarnacion SS#03-2065556-9	December 5, 1997
11)	Melicia R. Bayno	Unknown	Daniel S. Flores SS#07-1195837-3	August 23, 2003
12)	Teresita Delfin	Unknown	Erenio Galindo SS#07-0618003-3	July 18, 2001
13)	Susan Guillermo	Unknown	Eddie V. Guillermo SS#07-0945911-4	July 16, 2004
14)	Felix Hora	656 P. Paterno, Quiapo, MM	Cipriano Hora SS#03-4771541-4	September 26, 2004
15)	Yolanda P. Jabon	Unknown	Fidel O. Jabon, Jr. SS#03-4167707-9	April 15, 2003
16)	Angel Joaquin	2647 R. Fernandez St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila	Lourdes M. Joaquin SS#03-5992496-9	August 6, 2004
17)	Virgie Sardelo Corazon Juaneza	Unknown	Feleciano Juaneza SS#07-3225477-1	October 19, 2004
18)	Tercelita Delgado Landan	Unknown	Eufrosino Aguilan Landan SS#04-3015880-7	May 22, 2004
19)	Eden M. La Fuente	Tagkawayan, Quezon	Mauricio Mallen SS#04-0723877-8	May 21, 2004
20)	Rosario Banaobra	Bulacan	Marlex Maje SS#07-1430814-0	December 31, 1999
21)	Flora A. Ranile	2105 San Andres Ext., Sta. Ana, Manila	Bonifacio Ranile SS#03-2843126-7	November 20, 2004
22)	Benito Ranoco, Sr.	Manila	Manuel Ranoco SS#06-0324030-6	December 3, 2004
23)	Celia N. Lemos	Orani, Bataan, Bataan	Arturo Reyes SS#03-3644524-4	December 19, 2004
24)	Purisima Dionisio	Unknown	Carlito Samson SS#03-1656419-1	July 1, 2004
25)	Elisa Tolentino	1460 Prudencio St., Sampaloc, Manila	Benjamin P. Tolentino SS#03-0761729-3	January 18, 2005
26)	Annaliza / Anneza G. Torallo	Japan	Renato R. Torallo SS#05-0436991-3	September 4, 2004
27)	Alicia & Rezyl N. Torres	Quezon City	Restituto T. Torres, Jr. SS#03-8404196-3	April 25, 2004
28)	Mely Rula	Libmanan, Camarines Sur	Artemio Valencia SS#03-1662668-2	January 20, 2005
29)	Percibal Rivera Aida Noynay	Unknown	Danilo Villaester SS#33-0722044-1	January 23, 2004
30)	Edelita Villafranca	Unknown	Tito Villafranca SS#07-0593705-4	May 16, 2004

- Nothing Follows -

(PDI--Feb. 26, 2005)

BUSINESS

‘Hot money’ worries Thai, RP officials

CAPITAL flows are a potential threat to monetary policy and should be carefully managed to ensure "smooth" liquidity and inflation management, according to officials of the Philippine and Thai central banks.

Almost eight years after the Asian currency turmoil, which began in Thailand and spilled over to the region, foreign capital flows or "hot money" are returning to these economies and perking up their currencies.

In a press briefing, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas deputy governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the BSP and the Bank of Thailand (BOT) held the 4th bilateral meeting in Bohol and identified risks to inflation and challenges to monetary policy this year in view of the global economic environment.

Pridiyathorn Devakula of the Bank of Thailand led the Thai delegation during the two-day bilateral talks that ended Wednesday.

"Oil prices were identified as a risk factor because if oil prices remain high, they could derail inflation and output targets in 2005," Tetangco said.

The other potential threat identified was the resurgence of capital inflows that, in turn, was pumping more liquidity into their respective economies.

"In the case of Thailand, they have been experiencing this in a significant way, allowing them to increase their [foreign] reserves but, at the same time, also led to appreciation pressure for their currency," Tetangco said.

He said the Philippines has had a similar experience since the start of the year, resulting in a sharp improvement in the exchange rate against the US dollar.

"Right now, I don't think it's a significant threat to monetary policy in the Philippines," Tetangco said. "It may be a more important threat in other countries, but in our case we're just starting to see an increase in capital inflows." *Doris C. Dumlao*

Asean CBs extend $1-B currency swap

BUENAVENTURA of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

By Doris C. Dumlao

FIVE members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) on Thursday signed an agreement to extend for two more years a $1-billion multilateral currency swap arrangement that was meant to serve as a regional buffer against external shocks.

The central banks of the Asean 5—the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia—met at the sideline of a bigger gathering of central bankers from Southeast Asia, New Zealand and Australia (Seanza).

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will host the meeting of central bankers today.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura confirmed that the extension of the $1-billion Asean currency swap had been signed Thursday night and that other key matters were taken up in yesterday's discussions.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the currency swap, which would provide liquidity to member-countries in case of a foreign exchange crunch, was originally set up decades ago. He said the Philippines last dipped into this pool of funds in the 1980s.

The countries affected by the 1997 Asian currency turmoil were not able to make use of this arrangement as speculative attacks against their respective currencies happened at the same time.

Tetangco said the Asean 5 central banks took advantage of the opportunity of the Manila meetings to sign the renewal of the currency swap deal.

"The other Asean countries will sign later," Tetangco said.

He said the multilateral currency swap will pave the way for the signing of bilateral arrangements with other countries in the region.

Under the Chiang Mai Initiative agreed in May 2000 during the Asean+3 Finance Ministers' Meeting in Thailand, member-countries would be able to prevent another regional currency turmoil by creating a "network of bilateral swap arrangements."

China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand are included in the network of bilateral swap arrangements.

The Chiang Mai Initiative is now under review at the Asean+3 Finance Ministers Process. Officials hope to improve the effectiveness of the self-help mechanism for members nations. Once the review is completed, the second bilateral swap arrangement will be revised in accordance with the agreement.

Last Tuesday, economic managers from South Korea, Japan, China and the 10-member Asean met in Bangkok to discuss how to cope with a weak US dollar.

The meeting was held to coordinate Asian monetary policies more closely and help the participating nations deal with the economic impact of a sliding dollar.

Europe has long been calling on Asian central banks to share the burden of a weakening US dollar by letting their currencies appreciate.

Also, Asean+3 countries agreed to set up a new organization, called the Asian Bellagio Group, to help stabilize Asian currency markets and to act as a counterpart to the G7 group of industrialized nations.

The new Asian group was supposed to be an Asian version of the Bellagio Group, which was established by academics in the 1960s as a private forum to discuss international monetary affairs with policy makers from the United States, Japan and Europe.

ADB: Political trouble in US may affect RP economy

AN ASIAN Development Bank economist has warned of the vulnerability of emerging markets like the Philippines to the growing political risks in the United States that could, in turn, shake up the global economic environment.

ADB principal economist Bill Bikales on Wednesday said there was a huge risk the current "benign" global environment could reverse the current investor appetite for high-risk assets of emerging economies.

"There is a huge risk of loss of confidence in the [United States] government which could force the Fed to [further] raise interest rates," Bikales said during the Foundation for Economic Freedom forum.

This, he said, would "create a very difficult environment for a lot of emerging market borrowers."

The global markets are now trying to factor in a further increase in US rates as the Bush administration faces difficulty in getting the US Congress to pass the stringent budget proposal.

External shocks, the economist said, would be "unavoidable" and emerging markets must thus speed up fiscal reforms and debt reduction to trim interest payments while the environment was still favorable.

He said the Philippines was particularly vulnerable to shocks given the size of its debt stock and its steady need for financing.

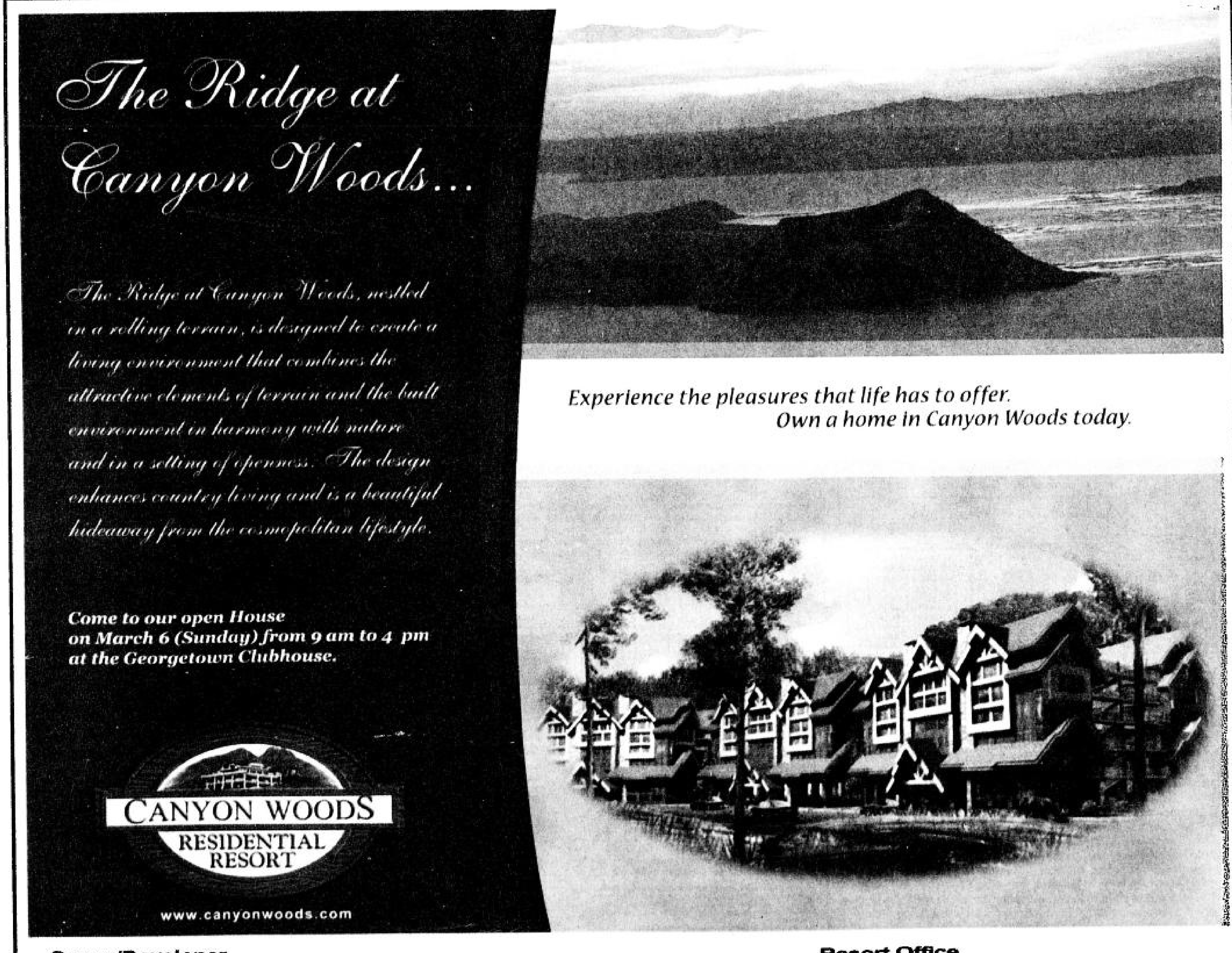
The economist also said that he was concerned over the domestic environment grappling with the issues of raising additional revenue, security problems, and the weaknesses in the financial sector.

Although it may be difficult, the government must thus resist pressures and implement unpopular reforms, Bikales said.

"We all know that, in the end, the issue of how to avoid a fiscal crisis is not an economic one, but a political one," he said.

The twin US problem of a budget deficit and a current account deficit has recently caused a weakening of the dollar.

The global economics unit of American Express Bank said the dollar drop seen so far was "probably only enough to stabilize the external deficit [of the United States], and is not enough to get the shortfall down to sustainable levels." *Doris C. Dumlao*



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PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

OFWs seen to boost real estate business

By Charles E. Buban

THE PROPERTY sector will have a bright future if the country will continue to entice its overseas workers to remit their hard-earned dollars, according to one developer of high-end, upper-middle and commercial housing projects.

"This is because overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are more likely to put their money on real estate investments," says One Asia Development Corp. president Victor Manarang.

Proof, he says, is the continuously improving demand for house and lot despite its higher cost as brought about by increasing cost of construction materials.

"The high inflow of dollar remittances from OFWs is helping a lot. In fact, property developers are expecting an industry growth of 7 percent despite the rising cost of construction materials," says Manarang.

Significant increase

Manarang says the inflationary cost of construction materials has significantly increased since it began in 2003.

He attributes the price hike, particularly on steel, to China's substantial demand for the building material, the oil price increase and tariff restructuring in the United States [that accelerated a short-term buildup of inventory in the US].

"A 15 percent to 20 percent increase in the prices of steel, cement, aluminum and wood is definitely making a direct impact on selling price behavior," he notes.

Because of this, developers face the challenge of operating on squeeze margins.

"Developers can only absorb the increase in cost for so long," Manarang says, adding that developers would have to either continue absorbing the price increase and dispose projects on squeezed margins or give it at seller's price but encounter less takers.

Still more buyers

Despite the development, home buyers are still rushing to acquire house and lots.

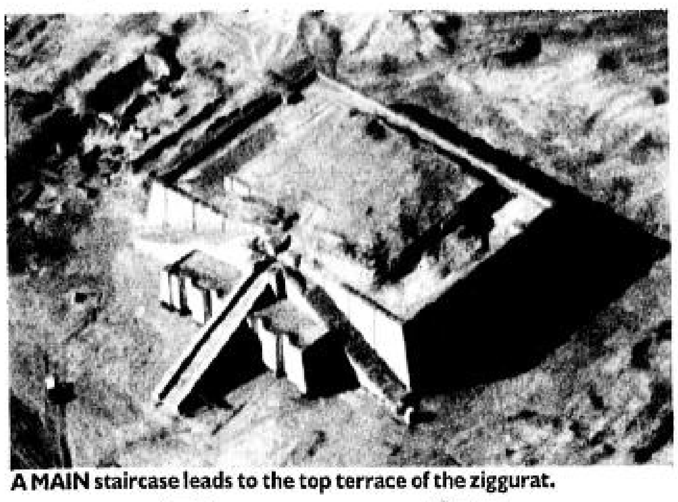
"The OFWs know that the value of the properties will continue to shoot up in the coming year, so early they get them, the better," he says.

The OFWs, Manarang says, are a significant market considering that the national government projects $10 billion in remittances from this sector this year, compared to $8.5 billion in 2004.

"Although Filipino migrants and OFWs send a lot of money back to the Philippines [where most are invested on property], they have become more selective in their choice of project," he notes.

"So it is important for us developers to come up with projects that meet or exceed their expectations," says the developer who is behind projects like The Celebrity Place in Diliman, Quezon City and Verdant Heights in Parañaque City.

Manarang expects the OFWs to invest more on commercial lots as middle-income families are expected to continue to grab opportunities to own land and homes through flexible deals.



A MAIN staircase leads to the top terrace of the ziggurat.

Ziggurat of Ur

AMAZING STRUCTURES

THE WORLD'S largest surviving ziggurat, as listed in the Guinness World Records, is the Ziggurat of Ur (now Muqayyar, Iraq). The most preserved of all ziggurats in Mesopotamia, it stands on a rectangular court measuring 62.5 meters x 43 meters at the base, has a height of 11 meters and is composed of three stages.

Ziggurats are stepped mud-brick towers constructed in Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian cities. Although the actual purpose of these structures is not clear, many believe that these represented the lofty homes of Mesopotamian gods.

The Ziggurat of Ur was constructed by Ur-Nammu at Ur around 2113-2096 BC. Some sources say it was built for the moon god Nanna, while some wrote that it was a tribute to the god Sin and was called "Etemennigur" which meant "a house whose foundation creates terror."

The ziggurat's outer face is made of baked bricks. The baked

ZIGGURAT/B2-3

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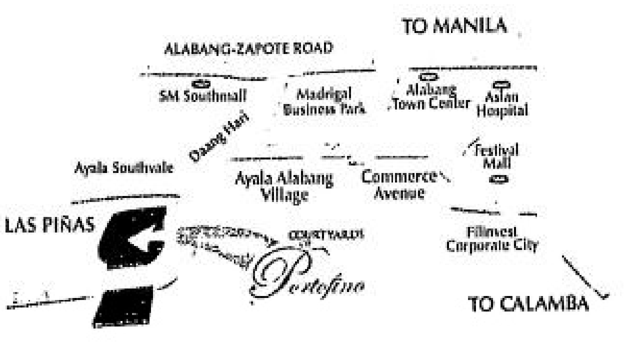


Brittany
CORPORATION

ONE of the opening scenes in "Somethings Gotta Give" gives a teaser of the cool stylish house where all the action took place. White on whites with dark wood as accent make for a cozy getaway.

And the Oscar goes to . . .

INTO SPACE

Pinky Cruz

IT'S the Oscar's season again—a mardis gras for film aficionados like me. And for others who take movies seriously, this is history unfolding. A cinematic feast of the finest films ever made throughout the year.

This week alone, two heavyweight contenders are gracing the cinemas, "Ray" and "The Aviator." Both are must see and are vying for best actor award, best director and for best film of the year. And even now, I am planning my week's calendar for this.

Finest set designs

So, why talk about movies inside the property section? I can't help it. Since we are in the finest performances, we might as well talk about the finest set designs and interiors of modern cinema .

I don't know about you, but whenever I watch, it's not just the plot or the actor I go for. I become so fascinated with the set designs that my head spins in sensory overload. The myriad locales and backdrops created for some movies more often than not, linger on in my memory long after the closing credits.

Being visually impressionable, I become so lost in the vastness of images. The way the peach blossoms in "The Last Samurai" metaphorically concludes the film as the samurai waxed philosophical, still takes my breath away. The magnificent Italian countryside in "Under the Tuscan Sun" that was even more beautiful than the story itself still lies vivid. "Heaven-sent" remains a personal favorite and truly a cinematic delight!

Without question, this medium has become the cheapest form of escape among Filipinos. For two hours, it magically transports me to the very scene, making me forget everything else and come alive in a world I could never have imagined.

And the nominees are...

So, in keeping with the Oscar's tradition, I pay tribute to the best movie sets I have seen in all my movie-viewing life. And the nominees are..

1. **"Something's Gotta Give."**

Since most of the scenes were shot inside Diane Keaton's house, it sure must share in the limelight, and it did! I love the monochromatic whites in different nuances set in an open layout. The house is big but it captures the Long Island feel the designer intends to project given the beach as its selling point. Even Keaton's wardrobe becomes part of the whole esthetic effect. I have watched it several times just to be reminded of the house and the crisp getaway feeling it brings.

2. **"House of Flying Daggers"**

Oh, I love this film. Let us suspend our disbelief for some fight scenes are altogether too good to be true. Still, I was overwhelmed with the overall visual impact of this critically acclaimed Chinese film. The exotic colors and graceful motions in the dance-fight sequences are so intoxicating to me. The bamboo fight scenes, too, made my heart skip a beat in awe of nature's commanding presence all captured at a glance.

3. **"Meet Joe Black"**

Fall in love with the grandeur and elegance of this feel-good movie. I am not sure, though, whether the set is more beautiful than Brad Pitt's body.

4. **"Enough"**

This movie, starring J. Lo, may be voted as one of the most forgettable films of all time, save for the set design. In one scene, she invaded the house of her ex-husband and tormentor to take revenge. I admired the split-level house, done in no-nonsense concrete and black leather. The incandescence of the surrounding may well be regarded as the main attraction.

5. **"Out of Africa"**

Set in African safari, this film has fulfilled for me the experience of the jungle in high fashion. Combining ethnic ruggedness with high style, it makes me want to learn to ride a horse and live in the outback.

Our sensibilities expand, the longings of our hearts stirred up, and our passions aroused. All in one sitting at the movies.

* * *

For comments and suggestions, please e-mail me at pinkycruz@creativepost.com.ph.

FROM THE MOVIE, "Enough." As tension arises, between the two subjects, the areal view from the second level heightens the suspense and provides the cold backdrop for the ensuing catfight.

Year of the Rooster brings in good fortune at Montgomery Place

AYALA Land Inc.'s The Legacy at Montgomery Place welcomed good fortune and prosperity to its community last Feb. 6 as it marked the Chinese New Year with dancing, feasting, entertainment and prizes.

The grand outdoor event, dubbed "The Rooster Marks a Legacy," was held at Sheffield Place inside Montgomery Place. It started with a Eucharistic Mass, and was immediately followed by an amazing Lion Dance performance, a traditional ritual that attracts good luck through the loud beating of gongs, cymbals and drums.

Chinese musicians serenaded the guests over a sumptuous lunch buffet, after which an exciting Wushu exhibition was held, along with other Chinese traditions: fortune-telling and giving away of tikoy and lucky charms.

Model units

Invited guests also got the chance to discover and explore the exquisitely designed model units of The Legacy, which are inspired by American South architecture. The houses feature high-pitched roofs, tall ceilings and panoramic windows with individual lot sizes ranging from 153 to 288 square meters and floor areas ranging from 206 to 257 sq m.

Units at The Legacy are said to harbor in good luck for the new year, since ALI took certain feng shui concepts into consideration during construction and design. Also, in the master plan, the units were generally laid out to follow the East-West orientation, or prosperity's way.

'Belly of wealth...'

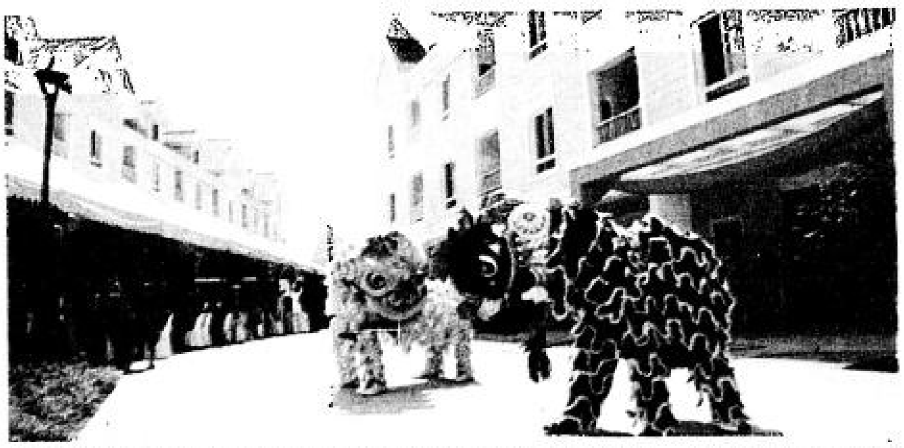
Renowned geomancer Master Joseph Chau has even declared the property as a "belly of wealth and prosperity wrapped around a belt which is the San Juan River. The entrance gate of The Legacy is the mouth, where good fortune freely comes."

The Year of the Rooster is indeed a good year to invest in The Legacy at Montgomery Place, which consists of a limited number of single-detached homes and impressive amenities such as The Pavilion, tranquility pool and courtyard, as well as underground utilities, 24-hour security and superior property management which will guarantee that the investment holds its value and appreciates over time.

This development is tucked privately on a premiere area of the 7.5-hectare Montgomery Place, Ayala Land's flagship townhouse and house and lot development. Situated on E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue in the heart of Quezon City, Montgomery Place is strategically located near respected educational institutions, medical facilities and commercial centers.

Homeowners can get the assurance of enjoying a quality residential property for them and their family. In fact, Ayala Land had recently turned over the 200th Montgomery Place unit to a very excited homeowner, and that the first batch of single-detached units at The Legacy would be ready in about 12 months.

For inquiries, call 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or e-mail ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph.



A TRADITIONAL "lion dance" performance was made during "The Rooster Marks a Legacy" event at Montgomery Place, to attract good luck and drive away bad spirits through the loud beating of gongs, cymbals and drums.

KIDS line up to get their special prize from Ayala staff during "The Rooster Marks a Legacy" event at Montomery Place. From the "Angpao" tree, they picked out their tokens—a choice of Buddha luck charm, Rooster lucky charm, Chinese lucky chimes and tikoy.

ALI SALES personnel show interested guests the scale model of The Legacy at Montgomery Place, the townhouse development's "crown jewel" soon to rise in the heart of Quezon City. The Legacy will have 71 single-detached units carved out of Montgomery Place's Premier lot.

BCI Asia sees info-driven construction boom in RP

BCI Asia, the leading provider of construction information in Southeast Asia and Greater China, sees an info-driven construction boom in the Philippines and in the rest of the region.

BCI Asia country manager Apple Patrico said business opportunities continued to emerge from the regional and national market linkages created by the availability of construction information to industry players.

Gaining access to info

"By bridging the information gap between supply and demand and among countries, the local construction industry can now gain access to extensive market opportunities, trade and investment prospects, new technologies, and hard-to-find products and services," Patricio explained.

"Along with the flow of such information from BCI Asia to its subscribers also comes such opportunities for construction projects and supply contracts, and all the answers for specific requirements, product and service specifications, and other relevant matters for making sound corporate decisions, thus increasing transparency and competitiveness in the market while raising construction quality and lowering construction costs," Patricio said.

Source of opportunities

"In fact, BCI Asia's project information has become the leading source of new business and contract opportunities for companies in the construction arena throughout the region," Patricio added.

BCI Asia has offices in the United States, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The country's first and only provider of construction information, BCI Asia's Philippine office is at the LKG Tower, Unit 2304, 6801-6803 Ayala Avenue, Makati City (tel. 884-1122).

Reporting projects

Working in partnership with architects, engineers, consultants and developers to provide comprehensive information on planned construction projects, BCI Asia reports on over $300 billion worth of construction projects a year.

BCI Asia's focus lies on upcoming construction. Its in-house teams research all types of projects from inception through various phases of planning, tender and contract award to early construction.

Projects covered range from infrastructure, roads and bridges, airports and civil engineering works to residential buildings, office, retail, hotel and recreational facilities, both private and public.

Providing needed info

"Whether it is an architect seeking new work, a building product manufacturer trying to have his products specified, a developer scouting out new contractors, a subcontractor looking for additional projects, BCI Asia provides all the required information that is proprietary, reliable and current," Patricio explained.

Apart from getting their specific information requirements directly from BCI Asia, subscribers also get valuable inputs online from BCI Asia's website and through Architecture Asia, a major quarterly publication for architects across the region.

Architecture Asia is published by PAM on behalf of Arcasia, the umbrella organization of all 16 architectural institutes in Asia and of which BCI Asia is the publishing and marketing agent.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Palafox at Macau forum

ARCHITECT and urban planner Felino A. Palafox Jr. will be one of the international guest speakers at the forum for Asia's leading architects, or Fala 2005, to be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Macau, China from March 17 to 20.

Top brass architects from the US, Australia and Hong Kong will join Palafox, the only Filipino speaker during the convention.

The convention will update the delegates on the latest trends on architecture and progress of construction of the Beijing Olympic Green Convention Center and the master planning of the site for retail, commercial and hotel accommodation for the staging of the next Olympic games.

Business conventions at Boracay Regency

BORACAY Regency Beach Resort recently opened the Boracay Regency Convention Center, the newest and largest of its kind in the island. Boasting of a 600-person capacity and the latest audio-visual tools, the convention center can accommodate growing and established companies in their corporate outings, team-building seminars and trainings held in Boracay.

Construction of the resort's new wing started last October. Covering a lot area of 6,321 square meters, this new development was undertaken by Boracay Regency Beach Resort chair and president Henry Chusuey to cater to their discerning and privileged clientele. Regency's commitment in giving its guests first-class services and facilities continues with the completion of this new structure.

No less than Vice President Noli de Castro inaugurated the facility when the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Associations (Creba) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) held their national convention there last year. Presidential daughter Luli Arroyo also graced the festivities in honor of the Ms Earth winners.

For inquiries, contact 523-8707 to 08.

Apartment buildings

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

THE ACQUISITION of apartment or condominium units are becoming more and more appealing especially to today's young urbanites—whether brought about by the desire to move out of the family house and learn living independently or to start families of their own.

FENG SHUI

Living in an apartment, however, does not exclude one from the benefits of practicing feng shui. Zaihong Shen, feng shui practitioner and writer, tells us that the same feng shui principles governing houses generally apply to apartment buildings.

In feng shui theory, a building is with favorable chi (energy) if it gets plenty of sunlight, not flanked by taller buildings and is on a block that is protected from strong winds.

Shen tells us that a curved, winding street where traffic moves at a moderate pace is considered ideal in feng shui. The apartment building located on such a street will be benefited by the street's smooth-flowing [illegible] addition, a relatively calm environment outside the apartment will help create a sense of calm inside.

If your apartment is located on a busy street, Shen advises that you install double-glass windows, keep your windows closed at times when traffic is at its heaviest outside your building or use a white noise machine to muffle street noise.

Near a park

In feng shui, living near a park is always considered good and advantageous since it gives much importance to one's proximity to nature. Therefore, apartments or condominiums located next to or near a park is considered beneficial.

It may cost more but a park, especially if it has a considerable amount of plants and trees provides the residents living nearby with a continuous supply of fresh, clean air. The greenery also gives a feeling of tranquility and peace which is truly advantageous to those living nearby.

Near a river

An apartment building situated near a moderately slow-moving river is also favorable and open to auspicious chi, according to Shen.

The feng shui practitioner warns, though, that Chinese medical beliefs declare that morning dew can cause arthritis so apartment-dwellers should keep in mind to have the unit's bedroom facing away from the water.

It may deprive you of the scenic view, but then again, there's no harm in adhering to old beliefs. If it is not possible to relocate the bedroom, just make sure to keep the bedroom window shut during the night.

* * *

E-mail comments at fengshui.inquirer@gmail.com.

CONSIDERED beneficial to residents of apartment buildings is an abundance of plants and trees.

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Ziggurat of Ur

From page B2-1

THE LARGEST surviving ziggurat built by King Ur-Nammu at Mesopotamia (now Iraq).

bricks, which were made of clay pressed into molds and, measured around 30 x 30 x 7 centimeters and weighed up to 15 kilograms. The bricks were dried then baked in a mud oven to make it water resistant. The first stage of the ziggurat used around 720,000 baked bricks, most of which bearing a stamp of the name and title of King Ur-Nammu.

This outer face of baked bricks encases the solid core of mud bricks. The mud bricks were made of mud and reed, with the reed pressed into molds and left to dry in the sun. Each mud brick measured about 25 x 16 x 7 centimeters and weighed around 4.5 kilograms. Around seven million mud bricks were used for the ziggurat's first stage. Reed matting and sandy soil was placed on top of every sixth layer of bricks to prevent the entire structure from drooping sideways when it became wet.

A large main staircase located at the front of the ziggurat goes all the way up to the top terrace of the ziggurat where a temple is thought to have stood. Two side stairways also run up both sides of the ziggurat and meet with the main staircase at the gate. Many believed that these staircases were only used by temple priests. Each stage of the ziggurat had a terrace covered with baked bricks.

One of the most interesting features of the Ziggurat of Ur is the "weeper hole." Weeper holes were small gaps left between the brickwork on the sides of the ziggurat. These holes allow evaporation of water from the structure's core.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

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Small luxury resorts

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

PALAWAN boasts of crystal clear waters and lime stone cliffs. Lakes and blue lagoons surround the island of Coron, just a few minutes from the mainland. For the dive enthusiasts, coral reefs and WWII wrecks abound. The area has so many beautiful landscapes and seascapes that a number of small luxury resorts have flourished here. These resorts cater to foreign and local tourists alike.

We have some of the best resorts in the world, complemented by the excellent weather and tropical scenery. These resorts are tucked away in coves that provide privacy and quaintness as well as protection from the elements. Each has a distinct style of Filipino vernacular architecture.

Less is more

Some resorts take inspiration from the homes of our brothers in the southern tip of the archipelago, the Badjaos, who build their houses above water on stilts. Elevated planks, likewise on stilts, interconnect the units.

Other resorts are built along the limestone cliffs, this time, like the homes of the natives of the Mountain Provinces.

In both cases, the units blend into their surroundings and much of the existing landscape is left intact. This system brings the least damage to the environment.

For more daring developers, bathrooms open up to the outdoors to achieve the feeling of being in the open air. Unlike the Badjao houses though, waste and effluents do not fall directly into the water below. It is collected by sewerage treatment systems so as not to pollute the waters. It is good that there are now more resort owners who are responsible enough to take care of the environment, which directly provides them their livelihood.

No easy feat

Simple as they may seem, developing seaside resorts such as this is no easy feat. From choosing and acquiring the ideal island that offers interesting terrain, sheltered from the elements, to considering the impact of the project on the environment they would be showcasing, is just the beginning.

The next step is carefully planning and considering everything from comfort, maintenance, security, privacy, transportation, safety, self sufficiency as to power supply, fresh water supply, waste management, air-conditioning, communication system, and entertainment options on the island.

The choice of building and decorating materials is another major factor. First of all, saltwater causes corrosion; therefore, the use of metal must be left to a minimum.

There may be a lot of indigenous materials found in the vicinity like multicolored lime stones, bamboo, drift wood, thatch, etc. that can work better toward the overall appearance of the structures, as well as prove to be more economical.

These resorts are much more complex than real estate development on the mainland, where utilities are readily available. And all these are undertaken just for you to be able to appreciate what nature has to offer.

A GIRL is fetching water on the deck of a typical Badjao house above water.

Negative publicity

Unfortunately, untoward events near these remote areas, which happen only quite rarely, are highly publicized and warnings are issued haphazardly declaring travel to the countryside unsafe. This discourages tourists from coming in. It's an unfair analysis, not just for resort owners and their workers, but more so for the tourists who ultimately miss out on the best travel destinations.

The cost of accommodations may be a bit higher than at our Asian neighbors. But, what we have here are personalized, exclusive resort developments with limited number of rooms to ensure privacy and avoid congestion, compared to 300-room resorts in other parts of Asia which may not offer the same kind of quaintness and honest-to-goodness rest and relaxation.

Local tourists would always compare the cost of a trip to an island resort to an international destination. There are times when the international destination is cheaper but if it is rest and recreation one is after, the local alternative is, all things considered, the better deal. There are a lot of Filipinos who can afford to visit the United States and Europe, but have not seen much of our islands nor felt the hospitality of our *kababayans* (countrymen). I believe our country is safer than most parts of the world and has much more to offer. If we continue to turn a blind or critical eye to it, we will be missing a lot. Many of the structures in Europe were designed by man. Nature, of which we have an abundance, is designed by God.

There are so many local sites we should be proud of. Let's share it with the rest of the world.

E-mail the author at arkinet@email.com.ph.

ONE of my favorites, Club Noah Isabelle, has houses on stilts, which may have gotten its inspiration from the Badjao houses of the south.

Asia's biggest flea market to rise soon

ASIA'S biggest flea market will soon rise in a sprawling site in Pasig City.

Tiendesitas is being constructed in an 18-hectare location on C-5 near Ortigas Avenue. Strategically located with the global giants and selected multinational office sites, it's a perfect embodiment that will later be known as the exhibition capital.

The flea market and theme park has an elegant architecture projecting graceful interior and exterior designs.

Tiendesitas, soon to be Asia's first and largest flea market and theme park, will fortify the glory of the vanishing Philippine arts and culture. No more branded food chains, no more imported goods but instead an exhibition of Filipino products made by defined native manufacturers. Small stores in a green frontier replace the air-conditioned rooms in a multistory building.

Future shopping destination

The Greenhills Shopping Center in partnership with Las Islas Trade and Consumer Show Organizer recently launched the future premier shopping destination in the country. Tiendesita's Frontera Verde (small villages in a green frontier) will later bring the recognition of the Filipino-made products in the world market.

Tiendesitas functions like an "urban retreat" where you can walk around in wide-opened villages. Every village is within a walking distance. The imagery that welcomes customers is an upscale solemn surrounding area.

As a theme park, its landscape architecture showcases a variety of flora and fauna, exposing nature's splendor where customers can shop, dine and be entertained. Swaying trees and a horizon of clear ponds along walkways describe Tiendesitas.

Small entrepreneurs coming from 18 regions can now invest businesses here. At an affordable rental fee compared to malls, these Filipino artisans display their craftsmanship and creative ideas.

There will be more jobs for Filipinos who would capitalize the macro industry as a way of recovering from the economic decline. Almost 1,500 stalls will operate to build a strong foundation for more than 1,000 families in hand.

Tiendesitas is composed of different villages such as Philippine Crafts, Arts and Antiques, Pets and Garden, Food, Sweets and Delicacies. In addition to these, Footwear, Leather goods and Garment Village complete the projected aura of the flea market.

In the said villages, most of the clothes are fabricated with genuine fiber; handicrafts are made of indigenous materials and home-made products from different provinces from north to south. Delicious delicacies will satisfy the taste buds of each customer who will stop over to shop.

'Business with conscience'

Las Islas CEO Henry G. Babiera said "business with conscience" is an integral venture for a developed industry. With his mentor Don Rafael Ortigas, integration of "tiangges" to malls attracts anew many Filipino to nonstop shopping. After the reinvention of Greenhills, he became known as the dean of Philippine trade fair and exhibition.

"Business is not merely getting committed to earn money, but also an engagement to his fellowmen and country with sustainable macro industry," said Babiera.

Establishments like commercial centers, shopping malls and deluxe hotels are the trendy developments going on in the metropolis. Perhaps Tiendesitas is not the usual establishment but it's a stronghold of heritage and history. Tiendesitas succeeds by offering a flea market and theme park environment. There is no such setting the same as Tiendesitas especially the reinvention of the art of shopping and revitalization of Philippine arts and culture.

Interested parties can contact Babiera at Las Islas office at G/F, Blue Men's Quarters Bldg., 707 Urduja St., Barangay Village, Sucra Road, Parañaque City or Lotta Soller, Greenhills Shopping Center, Ortigas Ave., San Juan, Metro Manila.

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New roads to progress point north of Metro Manila

THINGS are moving fast north of Manila. The quickest routes to a better business environment and more promising tourist destinations in Central Luzon have recently been opened, ushering in promise for those who wish to join the growth of the country's progressive economic region.

The North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), now under new management, is clearly a vision of the future—a modern thoroughfare that will connect to the proposed Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, a four-lane highway with eight interchanges that will span the distance between Subic and Clark and end in the neighboring province of Tarlac.

Multilane marvel

The NLEX is now a multilane marvel; a big improvement from its earlier state that is now providing travelers speedy access to all business and tourist points north of Metro Manila.

Among those getting in the game early in anticipation of a heavy influx of northern travelers is Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), which is soon to embark on a leisure community development that will embrace the best of what Central Luzon's natural resources has to offer.

The modernized and upgraded NLEX facility, built and operated with expert technology from Australia and Europe, features world-class infrastructure—newer and wider lanes; state-of-the-art toll booths where motorists can pay using the e-pass system, cash, or prepaid cards; and computerized monitoring and security systems.

Easier access

Ecozone locators and investors now have easier, safer and faster access to Central Luzon's vital business and development installations through this modernized alternative bypass route—a better option over traversing the congested areas of the national capital region and nearby provinces.

The improved NLEX is anticipated to prime the economic pump in Subic and neighboring areas such as Pampanga and Bataan, because improved accessibility will inevitably attract more local and foreign investments.

Direct link

Moreover, the proposed 94.5-kilometer Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway will provide a direct link among Subic Bay's international port, the ecozone and the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark and technoparks in Tarlac. It is seen to create a formidable industrial-logistical complex, with access between the Philippines and other vital hubs in the Asia-Pacific region.

Said ALI president and chief executive Jaime I. Ayala: "These vast new developments in Central Luzon, seen to be brought about by the vehicular gateway that is the new NLEX and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, will surely transform the area into a thriving economic and tourist hub. And we at Ayala Land are looking forward to maximizing this dynamic new environment with the unveiling of our exciting new residential resort development."

Joint dev't agreement

He also revealed that the first step in realizing this vision is already underway with the joint development agreement that was forged recently between ALI and Sudeco, a private real estate holding firm established in 1998. The agreement details the development of a high-end seaside residential resort community located near Subic Bay, in the neighboring town of Morong, Bataan. This pioneering project will involve over 320 hectares of Sudeco's idyllic property, set in a unique environment featuring both mountain and sea.

Ayala said ALI envisions this resort community to be a venue where family bonding memories will be forged in a highly interactive natural leisure setting with its 3.5-kilometer coastline, gently rolling terrain, a peak elevation of 135 meters, and spectacular views of Subic Bay and the mountain ranges of Zambales and Bataan.

The new NLEX has already cut travel time to Subic to two hours. As travel to Subic gets easier, both local tourists and those who have hometowns in Central Luzon will definitely look forward to weekend visits and in this new dynamic area of development in the country.

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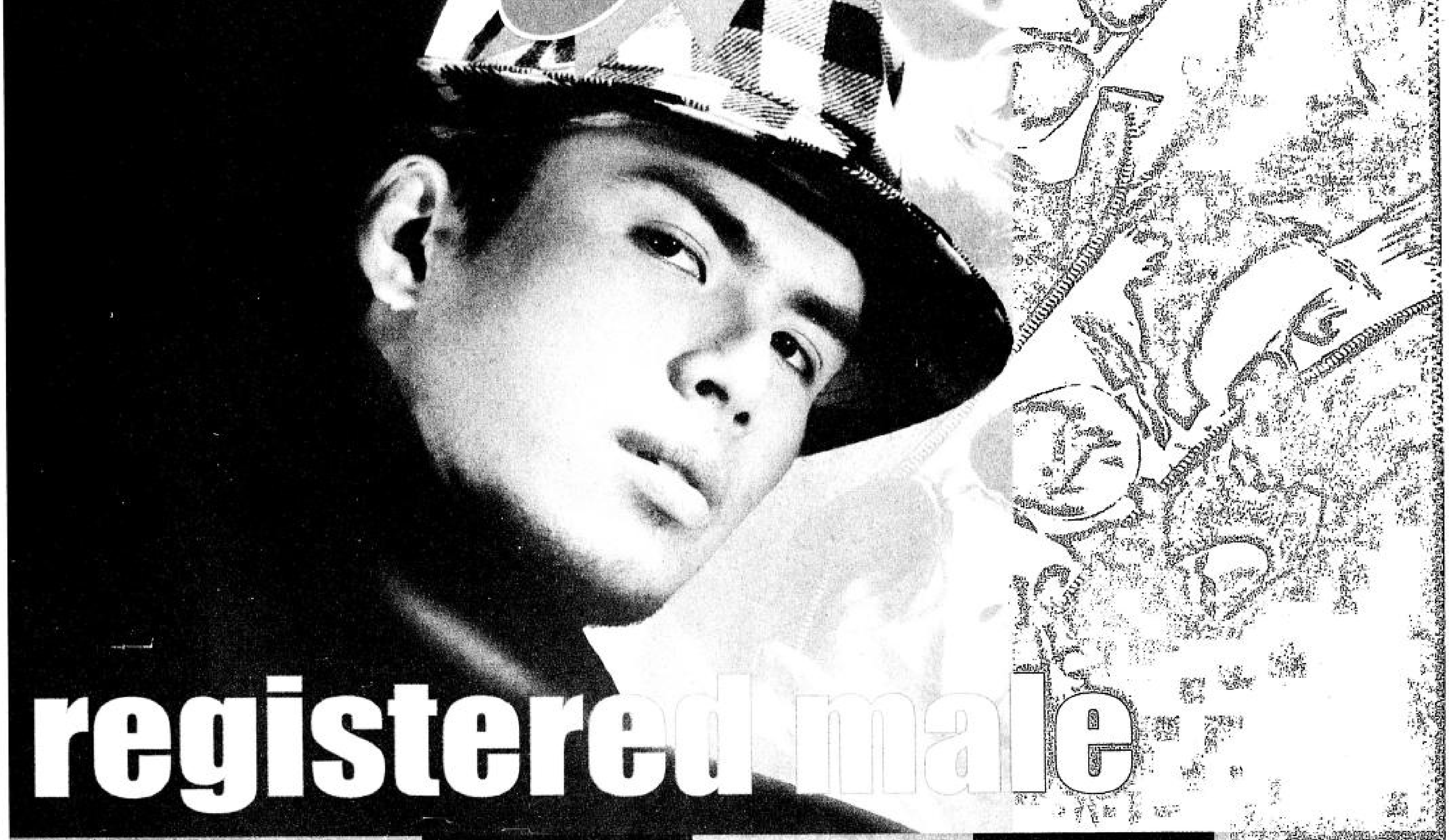

registered male

The winners of Super!'s own Oscar Awards page D1

How to annoy a celebrity page D3

Jars Of Clay in Manila page F1

Make your own reality TV show page D2

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: RICHARD PEREZ
Grooming: TONI & GUY ESSENSUALS
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PLDT myPad

MTV VJs let loose in CYBERSPACE

Marc
Maike
John
Cindy
GET
Cesca

MTV VJs chat up a storm at fashionably fun online hangout PLDT myPad

So you're seriously crushing on Cindy. Or you're a die-hard fan of Marc. Or you're intensely curious about Maike, Cesca and John Joe, the three hot new additions on the MTV block. Well here's your chance to get up close and personal with the fab five MTV VJs in real time.

Log on to PLDT myPad from March 1 to 5, 2005, 7-8 pm and catch MTV VJ Chat, a blissfully wacky, fun, no-holds-barred chat session with MTV darlings Cindy Kurleto and Marc Abaya together with newbie VJs Maike Evers, Cesca Litton and John Joe.

Go on an hour-long cyber date with Marc on March 1, John Joe on March 2, Cindy on March 3, Cesca on March 4 and Maike on March 5. For only P50, you can participate in the chat session and watch your favorite VJ reply in person through streaming video.

You must be a full-fledged PLDT myPad member before you can join MTV VJ Chat. So register now at www.pldtmypad.com and get ready for the hottest cyber gig ever to hit your computer screen, MTV VJ Chat.

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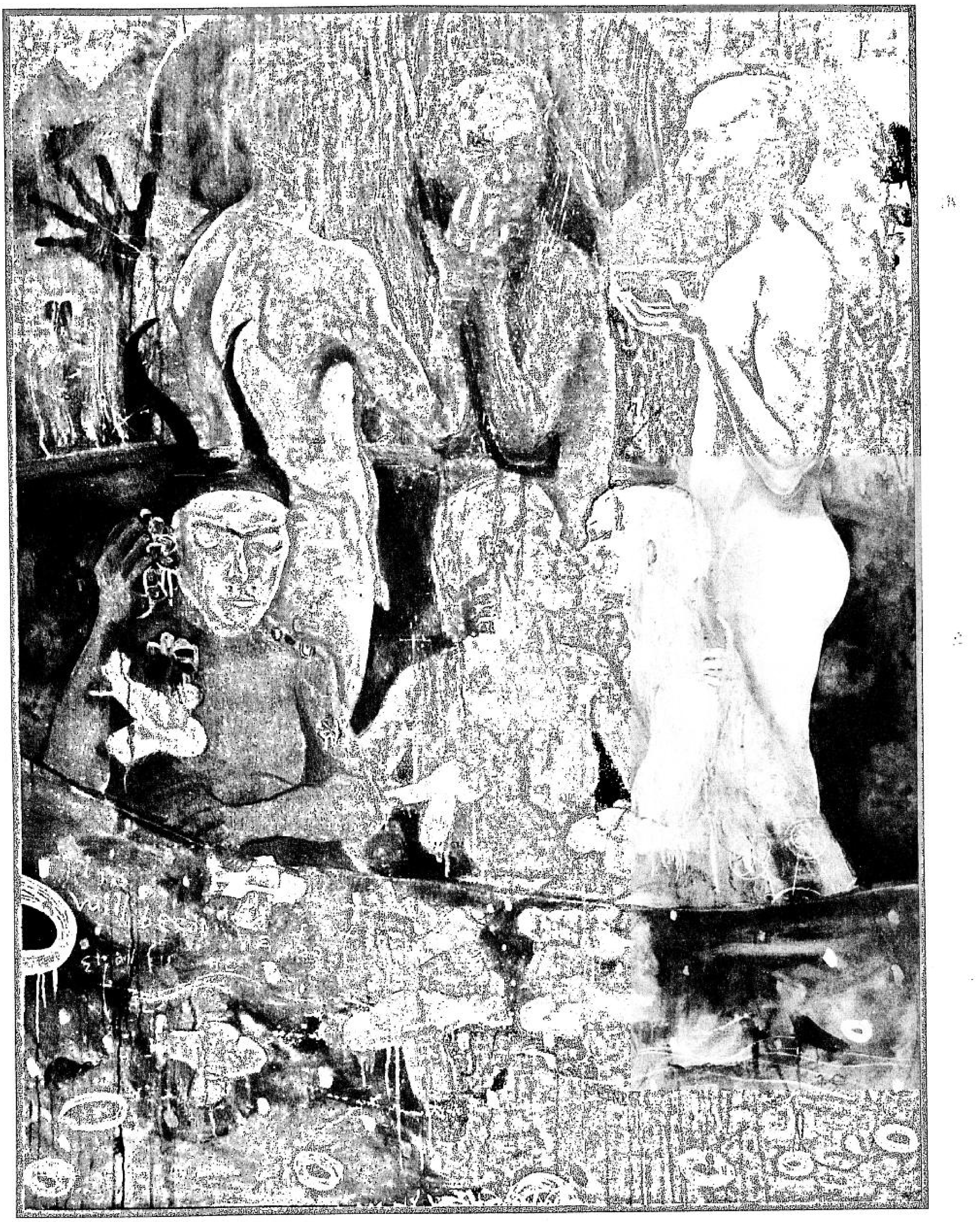

Killing the metrosexual

Go and be a metrosexual—become a spa regular, get manicures and pedicures, shop as much as you want—but go and be something else too

By Pam Pastor
Original artwork by Jason Moss

THEY were the supposed new breed of men. For over a year now, much attention has been given to the emergence of metrosexuals.

Countless articles gushed about how these modern, in-touch-with-their-feminine-side males had been redefining masculinity.

Right.

Fine, they like waxing their eyebrows. Fine, they like going to spas. Fine, Nivea has already created a skincare line for them. Fine, they actually like shopping now.

Why was there so much glorification for their sudden desire to trim their unwanted hair, keep their nails clean and their clothes immaculate anyway? Why were we singing praises for their sudden interest in grooming when it's really just a basic human requirement?

Have we all gotten so used to being surrounded by buffoons that the appearance of well-dressed men warranted excitement and frenzy?

In Hollywood and beyond, entertainment writers had fun pointing out which celebrities were metrosexuals (David Beckham, Ben Affleck, Justin Timberlake) and which were not (Tommy Lee, Jim Carrey, Adam Sandler). Even ESPN listed sport's top 10 metrosexuals. It even came out with a quiz for men to check where they'd end up on the metrosexual scale. Everyone was enamored—especially the people behind beauty brands whose sales skyrocketed.

But the honeymoon period didn't last long.

At least not for everyone. Wives and girlfriends started complaining about having to share their face creams with their men. "He now hogs the closet space," one frustrated woman posted on a message board.

"I must be old-fashioned but I want a man, not a metrosexual," one blogger wrote.

The phenomenon also created confusion with gay communities all over. "Oh honey, it's jammed the gaydar," a hairstylist said to a reporter in Seattle.

There are forum threads filled with men trying to figure out if they are metrosexuals or not.

"I don't consider myself metrosexual but some might, I'm just neat and clean." –AbbeyRoad

"I'm all out gay. But also do consider myself metrosexual." –Giancarlo

"I'm not a metrosexual, although I wear eyeliner often, and no, I'm not gay." –LeperAffinity

Why were people so worked up over the label? Enough is enough. We're done with metrosexuals. Bye bye, metrosexuals, bye bye.

We believe that there is more to people than their vanity. Go and be a metrosexual, but go and be something else too. Why should your metrosexuality define who you are?

Sarah Krebs had it right. "A warning to those wishing to become part of the metrosexual cult: Just because you look better, doesn't mean that you are a better person."

So go. Be a metrosexual doctor. Be a metrosexual engineer. Be a metrosexual chef. Be a metrosexual graphic designer. Be a metrosexual teacher. But don't let yourself become just a metrosexual.

Shall We Dance?

24/7 Nocturnal Navigator

Janine Cuenca-Dario

AS A KEEN observer of the city's nightlife, I noticed that full-fledged dance clubs or what we used to call discotheques have seen better days. Gone are the days when these all-weather, open-every-night discos ruled Manila's fabled nightlife. Cavernous dance halls with names like Coco Banana, Queue, Stargazer, Faces, Rumors, Euphoria, Subway and Mars have now passed into Filipino nightclub lore.

Dancing has now been relegated to inane gyrations on daytime television. Up to the '90s, dancing with a partner was standard fare. In school, classmates would teach each other the latest dance steps to prepare for the upcoming weekend soiree with the boys. Knowing the coolest moves would get you to meet the hottest guys.

Well, a dearth of clubs notwithstanding, bring out your dancing shoes as I take you on a trail around Manila's current nightclub scene for some unadulterated hip-swaying! After all, to enjoy life to the fullest, we should, like in the words of Broadway legend Bob Fosse, "Live like you'll die tomorrow, work like you don't need the money, and dance like nobody's watching."

Here's your dance itinerary for this week:

Feb. 26, Saturday

Start the evening by heading off to Folclores Do Brasil at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Tower, to watch and learn more about capoeira, the martial arts from Brazil accompanied by music and graceful enough to be considered a dance. Reserve through 0922-3044711. Then prepare for all-night dancing at Swinging Saturdays at Teak (G/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati; call 898-3365/3429) with veteran DJ and retro guru Boyet Almazan. Finally, a weekly all-night swing party! For the teeners and young adults from the Dance Fever era of the '80s, finding a place nowadays to swirl and twirl to the smooth disco tunes had been otherwise difficult.

Saturday is also the best day to catch house music as it turns up the heat at Embassy (call 816-4195), Government (7840 Makati Avenue) and Temple (call 757-4813).

Feb. 27, Sunday

If you feel like grooving on a Sunday, you can find an energetic crowd of locals and expatriates at Café Havana (G/F Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati; call 757-4370/4371), where Reggae Mistress performs weekly. Finding an interesting place to go on this relatively slow day is always a challenge when you are tasked to take out a guest around Manila, but amazingly this Greenbelt bar is packed any day of the week.

Feb. 28, Monday

Since most clubs are closed on Mondays, you can check out "Folies de Mwah," a musical revue and dance show at Club Mwah (3/F The Venue Tower, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong; call 535-7943). It's the best of Las Vegas shows transplanted to Metro Manila in a high-tech setting!

March 1, Tuesday

V Bar (G/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center; call 892-8303/8304) throbs with a heaving mass of R&B aficionados as Stephen Ku and Jon Herrera spin their brand of music in Ebony Grooves. Walk over to Absinth (3/F Greenbelt 3, Makati) where DJs jam weekly. Tuesday nights have never been this electrifying indeed.

March 2, Wednesday

After watching foreign band Jars Of Clay at the Araneta Coliseum, you can choose among the dance genres being offered. NBK's main man Manolet Dario burns the decks at V Bar with house music weekly in the Visa V Girl of the Night. Patrons get to vote for the evening's most beautiful lady. This gig is regularly crammed wall to wall with great-looking women! Pioneering R&B DJ Steve Mills plays weekly at Il Ponticello (121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati; call 887-7168).

March 3, Thursday

The latest in house music is the fare at Phuture Thursdays at Bed (corner of Maria Orosa and J. Nakpil streets; call 404-3662) with Cocoy Puyat. Absinth in Greenbelt plays host to DJ Patch, a stalwart in Malate's house music scene, in between sessions of reggae music.

March 4, Friday

DecaDance, the long-running retro party with Boyet Almazan, kicks off the weekend with hard-hitting disco faves of the '70s to the '90s at Soleil [G/F Greenbelt 2, Makati; call 757-3600]. Veteran DJ Manolet Dario pumps up the sedate Rockwell club scene with HouSessions at Teak (Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati; call 898-3365). For R&B music, Steve Mills cranks it up at V Bar in Soul Fridays while Jon Herrera and Stephen Khu hold fort at Temple with Jive Fridays.

Other clubs to check out in the city are Basement (Eastwood City Walk Libis; call 421-2046) and Republic of Malate (1769 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila; call 303-3529).

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules every Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax number 892-0689.

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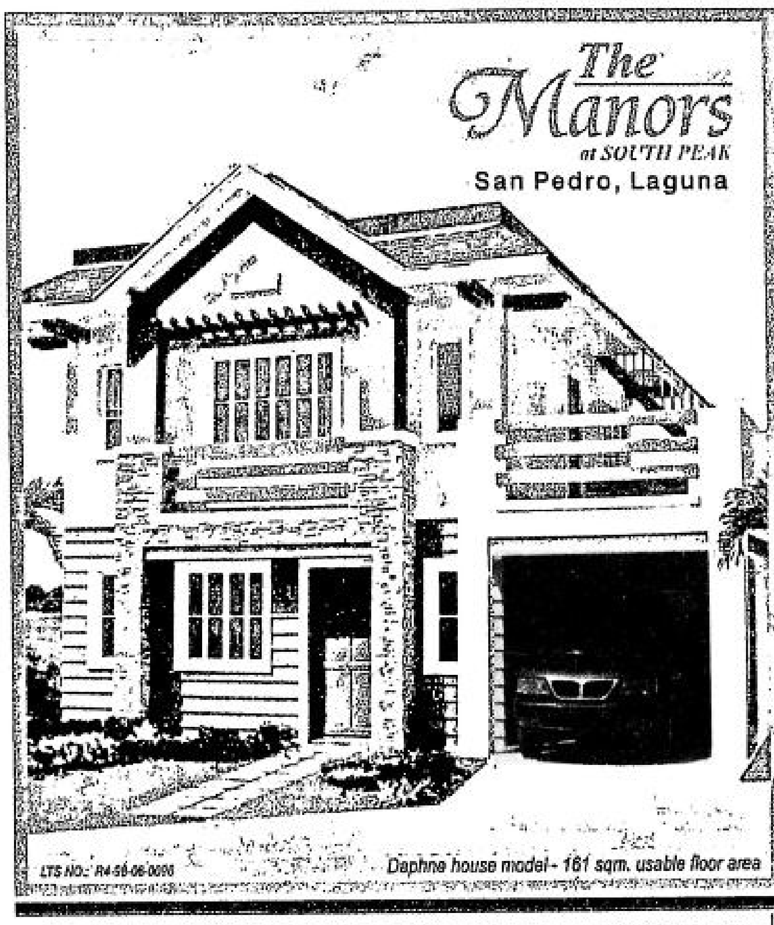
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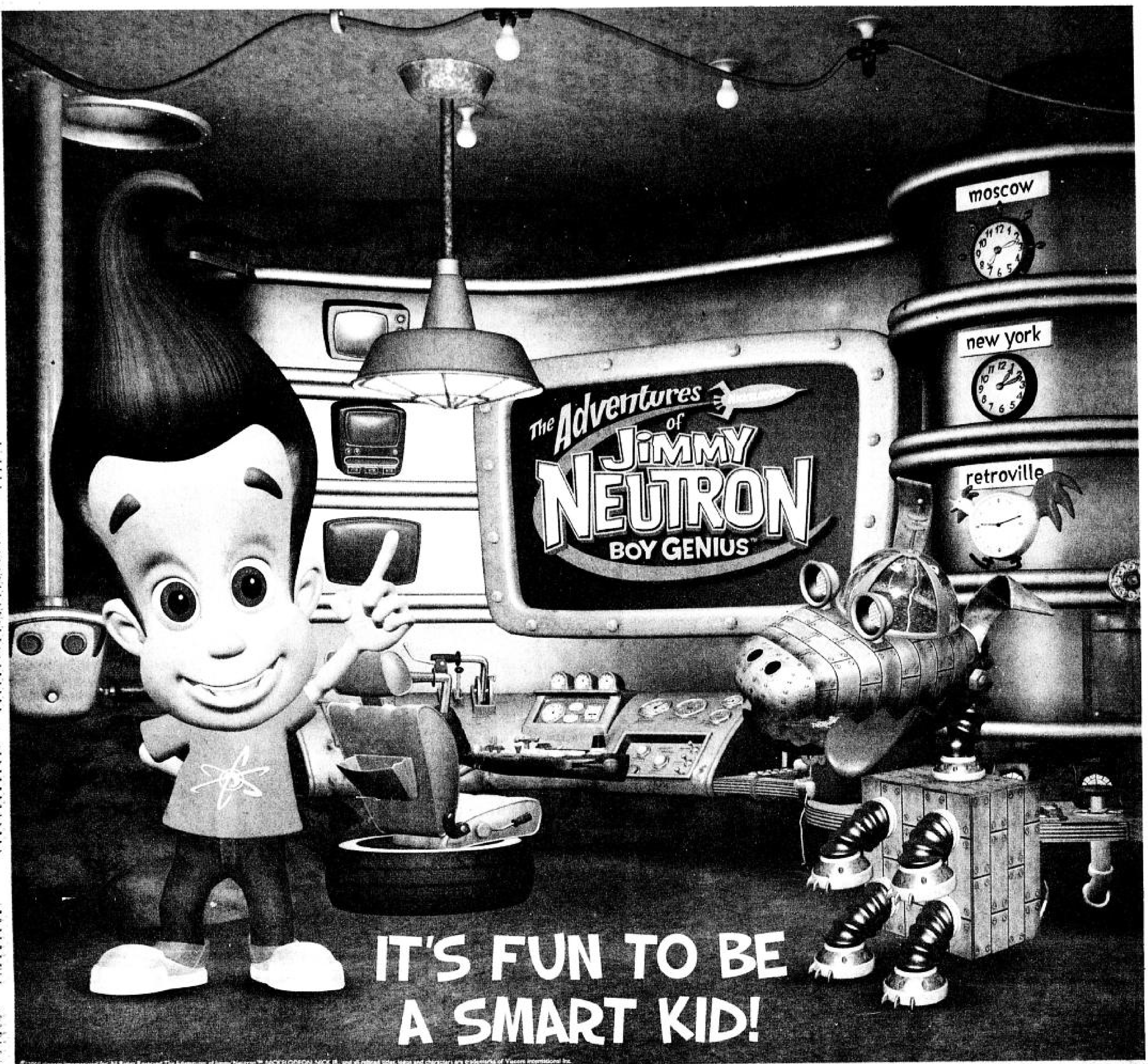
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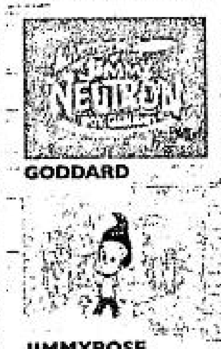
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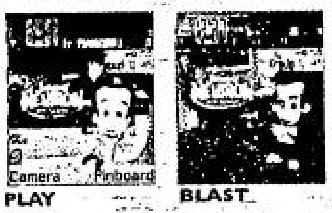
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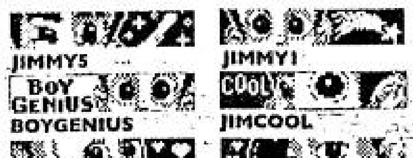
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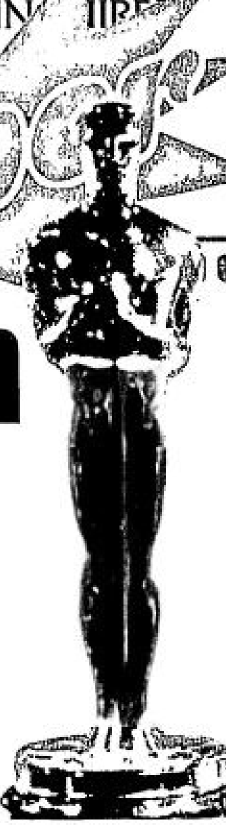
And the Naked Man in Gold Goes to . . .



By Pepe Diokno and James Gabrillo

IT'S OSCAR time, holy Super! readers! Right—that means it's the one and only time of the year people actually watch Channel 9!

We have seen most of the films—some stupid studios don't like releasing films here. But just so you know, we did our research.

And so, following the formula we use with other film reviews (which really means no formula), here's a tiny list of films and people we know will be awarded—if the Oscars were up to us. (The power… the power!)

Ladies and gentlemen, the naked men in gold go to…

BEST PICTURE

Nominees: "The Aviator," "Finding Neverland," "Million Dollar Baby," "Ray," "Sideways"

WHO WILL WIN:

"The Aviator." Okay, let's get straight to the point here. We hated this film. It's 700 hours long, and it's nothing but flash over substance.

WHO SHOULD WIN:

James: "Sideways." This film blew me away. I entered the movie theater with fairly good expectations but I never expected it would be that good. This film is so amazing, I still have that hangover feeling I get after watching awesome work. But it's a quiet little drama-comedy, so the Academy's not going to give the naked golden man to this film.

Pepe: "Finding Neverland." It's just that everyone can relate to this film—it's f*-ing universal, give it the Oscar! Give it the Oscar!

SURPRISE WINNER!

"Lord of the Rings: Return of the King—Special Edition Extended DVD." It just keeps going, and going, and going, and going…

BEST DIRECTOR

Nominees: Martin Scorsese ("The Aviator"), Clint Eastwood ("Million Dollar Baby"), Taylor Hackford ("Ray"), Alexander Payne ("Sideways"), Mike Leigh ("Vera Drake")

WHO WILL WIN

Martin Scorsese. We know the Academy hasn't been that nice to Marty these past few, umm, centuries but making one big sleep-fest of a film doesn't deserve an Oscar. But he's gonna win because he's pretty old and because Gangs of New York was fab but unrecognized.

WHO SHOULD WIN

James: Alexander Payne. First he gave us the spectacular movie, "Election" (which is one of my favorite films of all time), then he gave us the disturbing bathtub scene in "About Schmidt," and now he gives us a work where we see him truly mastering his line. I'm telling you, people, go run to a movie house and watch it! Watch it!!

Pepe: Clint Eastwood.

SURPRISE WINNER!

Pedro Almodovar for "Bad Education." Gael Garcia Bernal in drag—only Pedro can. And because of his hair (which has about 64 colors).

BEST ACTOR

Nominees: Don Cheadle ("Hotel Rwanda"), Johnny Depp ("Finding Neverland"), Leonardo DiCaprio ("The Aviator"), Clint Eastwood ("Million Dollar Baby"), Jamie Foxx ("Ray")

WHO WILL WIN

Jamie Foxx. Duh. If he loses, there's gonna be a war.

WHO SHOULD WIN

James: Johnny Depp. This man is my favorite actor in the world. He puts so much mystery in the character of J.M.

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Make your own reality TV show

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

LET US now pause for a disturbing announcement.

A local cable channel has recently proclaimed, in bold letters flash dancing onscreen, that there will be "more nonscripted shows coming soon!" Hold your kittens—was that just a drive-by euphemism for "more reality TV shows to pollute precious air time?" Or to further translate: "Get ready for even more inane programs starring Tupperware-like fame whores that only serve to speed up our brain cell depletion!" Be very afraid.

I'm certainly creeped out—creeped out as to how I can still find myself at times watching these shows on the tube, perhaps owing to the lack of quality programming from both the local and imported fronts. I wonder whether I catch these shows just to keep up with the next day's water cooler conferences on the latest senselessness on TV besides Kris Aquino.

At times, discussions have degenerated into pissing contests as to how many silly reality concepts you can enumerate, where even the titles are drowned out in the sea of absurdity.

The one where the kids choose the future wife of their father through lie detector tests.

The one with the bimbos trying to out-ditz each other to hook a mate in the Australian Outback.

The new one where an ex-supermodel and former rock star wife fraternizes with a bevy of single young bachelors.

The British one where they house five female porn stars and five single males in an apartment.

The show where they expose Amish people to the big city.

The new one in the US wherein a porn star, a fashion designer and a famous tennis player walk into a bar and the bartender asks, "So, you folks all want your own reality series?"

Question right back at 'ya. Since the end of the reality show genre seems to be nowhere in immediate sight, thereby keeping the creative industry of talented actors, actresses and scriptwriters out of jobs, then why not just bite it all and make your own reality series for the millions of international voyeurs? It does not require a degree in film or communications, just a bit of knowledge about the reality genre.

Surreality Programming 101

To review the basics. A reality show offers entertainment by immersing ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. The drama is squeezed out through the ragtag characters' spontaneous reactions to the various bizarre situations.

Every show is earmarked with a disclaimer: "The characters that appear on the program are not paid actors." Yet to call these shows "nonscripted" can be very misleading, for they essentially adhere to what many media writers and commentators refer to as scripted unscriptedness. There is scripting employed in determining the place and circumstance.

Think about it. A tropical island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. A glass case filled with slimy amphibians. A sprawling mansion filled with slimy bachelors. You cannot leave for 90 days. You must seduce thirty single men to fall in love with you. You must eat rat intestines within the specified time period.

Even the so-called "ordinary people" are all part of the script. They are selected by producers because they fill in the required stereotype for the show.

According to Chuck Klosterman, author of "Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs," this was a technique Alfred Hitchcock employed for his films. "One of the keys to Alfred Hitchcock's success as a film director was that he didn't draw characters as much as he drew character types." Klosterman adds that MTV's first season of "The Real World," unarguably the pioneer of the reality genre, based its personalities according to the archetypes presented in the '80s bratpack classic, "The Breakfast Club."

There you had the different teenage rogues representing their piece of the social pie, from the "respected social climber doomed to fail ethically" (Judd Nelson), "the self-destructive guy we're supposed to envy" (Rob Lowe), "the sensitive, self-absorbed guy who works hard at being bitter" (Andrew McCarthy), "the f*cked-up and pathetic girl" (Demi Moore) and "the girl too normal to have any friends" (Ally Sheedy).

Applying that basic formula in the process of creating a reality show, one simply needs to match the personality with the stereotype desired. Chances are, you won't be hard-pressed to think of someone who fits the role of the chest-beating alpha male, the perky, airheaded teenage chick, the cosmopolitan gay guy, or the Bible-thumping couple you never invite over for dinner.

Human lab rats

Mix and match all these elements together, and you have the conflict necessary in any riveting story. The friction may arise from pitting man against man ("Real World," "For Love or Money"), man against his environment ("Survivor," "Amish in the City") or man versus himself ("Starting <blech> Over.")

It's a bit like concocting a grand experiment, with mad scientist producers testing out
lab rats in different
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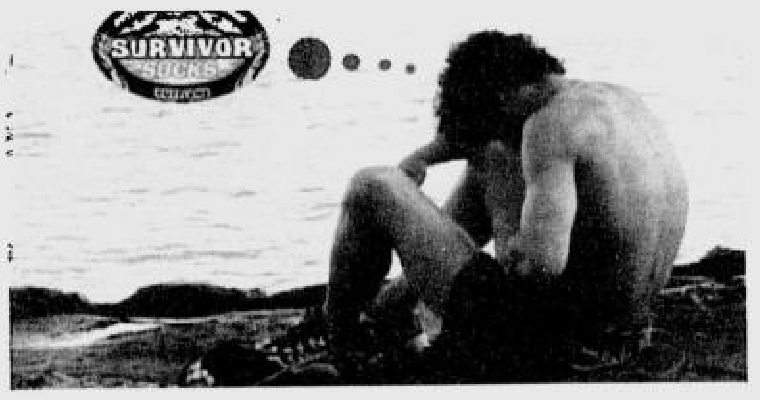
Reality Show Bluepri

STEREOTYPE	A gossipy diva Boy Abunda, Carson Kressley, Cojo	A bratty, precious princess Paris Hilton, Heart Evangelista, Anne Curtis	A holier-than-thou simpleton George W. Bush, Mike Velarde, Connie Reyes, Rosa Rosal	A strapping you hot-blooded m Richard Gutier Christian Vasq Ted Carreor Paolo Parai
REAL-LIFE SAMPLE SETTING	A deserted island frequented by tropical storms and hurricanes	The inner labyrinths of Divisoria market	An al-Qaida cell in the outskirts of Afghanistan	A hermetical sealed two-bedroo apartment
MAINSTAY GROSS CHALLENGE	Must eat only a diet of aborted chicks, pig intestines and live caterpillars	Must imbibe collected excess fat from Vicki Belo's liposuction clinics	Must watch other reality shows like "Starting Over" for 12 straight hours without going to the bathroom to throw up	Must view homemade p videos circula by has-bee celebrities to the mobil community
POSSIBLE SOURCE OF CONFLICT	For the grand prize of a million bucks awarded over the next 40 years less 40-percent tax, characters have to vote out one person each week	Characters have to seduce the members of the opposite sex to win an all-expenses-paid trip to an undisclosed exotic location	In exchange for real food, characters have to pass stringent lie detector examinations	On a random the contestan exes will sprou in surprise to veal their forr partner's dir secrets



And the Naked Man in Gold Goes to . . .

Barrie, it's amazing.

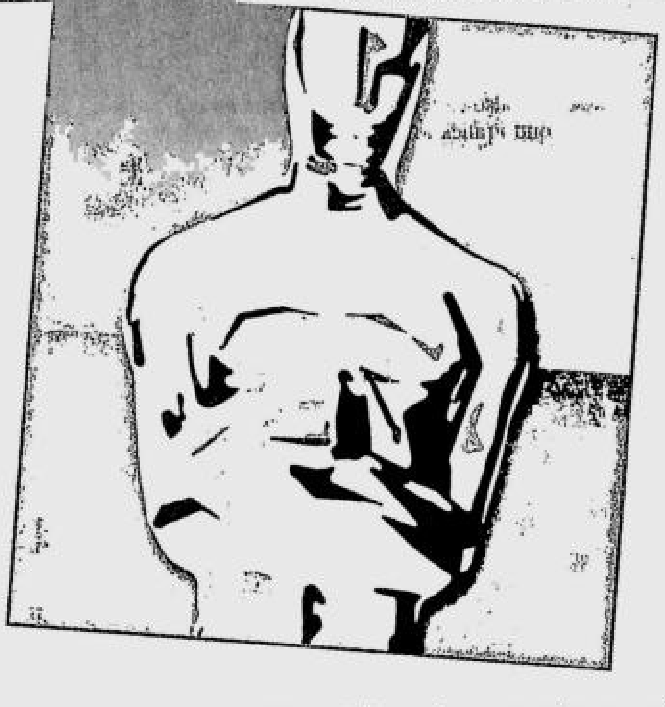
Pepe: Clint Eastwood... just for fun.

SURPRISE WINNER!

Jim Carrey for "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." Duh. The Academy has never fully appreciated this guy's talent. He was shut out from his super acting in "The Truman Show" and now for "Eternal Sunshine." We say scratch Leo out and replace him with Mr. Carrey here, the guy who used to talk out of his buttocks.

BEST ACTRESS

Nominees: Annette Bening ("Being Julia"), Catalina Sandino Moreno ("Maria Full of Grace"), Imelda Staunton ("Vera Drake"), Hilary Swank ("Million Dollar Baby"), Kate Winslet ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind")



WHO WILL WIN

Hilary Swank. If Charlize Theron won last year for being a sexy lady in real life and then playing a man in a film, why can't she?

WHO SHOULD WIN

James: Kate Winslet. I'm praying she sneaks in from the back and grabs the statue from Hilary and Grandma Annette. And the blue hair! The blue hair!

Pepe : Hilary Swank. I just love the Swank part of her name—it's so naughty. Plus points for kissing another girl in her first Oscar-winning role, of course.

SURPRISE WINNER!

Mandy Moore for "Saved!" She's so good. Good to go.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Nominees: Alan Alda ("The Aviator"), Thomas Haden Church ("Sideways"), Jamie Foxx ("Collateral"), Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby"), Clive Owen ("Closer")

WHO WILL WIN

Morgan Freeman. He turned a really quiet role into something unforgettable. Also, he will win for being the only black guy with freckles.

WHO SHOULD WIN

James: Thomas Hayden Church. The best of the immensely talented ensemble of "Sideways," he's the only one who's got a good shot at winning an Oscar for the film.

Pepe: Clive Owen. Who? Exactly. When I first saw him in a movie with Angeline Jolie about UN aid workers, I said, "This guy's never going to make it." So—give him a break, just like you did Adrien Brody. This guy might actually have another hit.

SURPRISE WINNER!

Jamie Foxx. Because the Academy wants to make a Pro-Black statement (which started with Halle Berry's undeserved win). Right.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Nominees: Cate Blanchett ("The Aviator"), Laura Linney ("Kinsey"), Virginia Madsen ("Sideways"), Sophie Okonedo ("Hotel Rwanda"), Natalie Portman ("Closer")

WHO WILL WIN

Cate Blanchett. When you look like you just came from a Gay Pride Parade in the entire film, you deserve recognition. Well, probably. This is the category where the Academy members drink 20 shots of tequila, then cast their ballots, so it gets pretty crazy here (great examples are when Judi Dench and Mira Sorvino won).

WHO SHOULD WIN

James: Laura Linney. She did what actresses do to win an Oscar—she transformed her appearance for the film. I really like her because she made me believe she was really the character she was playing.

Pepe: Natalie Portman. I'm in love with Natalie Portman. However, that's the only reason she deserves the award.

SURPRISE WINNER!

Maggie Smith for "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Long overdue. LONG OVERDUE!

BEST ANIMATED FILM

Nominees: "The Incredibles," "Shark Tale."

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3:00 pm A ROMANCE WITH PEARLS
A Fashion Accesories Show by Jewelmer
Dresses by Rajo Laurel
Make-up by Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics
4:00 pm I DO, I DON'T
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by Rita Neri & a Feng Shui Master
6:30 pm STYLES AND TRADITIONS at the Sunset Pavilion
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VINNER!

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thors at pepe@greenar-

Have you annoyed a celebrity lately?

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

IT'S NOT like the world needed it or even asked for it, but it looks like there's more of Paris Hilton to go around.

Everyone's favorite hotel-owning hussy, Miss Hilton was the victim of a shocking, upsetting and slightly creative theft last weekend. Her ever-present cell phone, a T-Mobile Sidekick II, was hacked into by a group that left her with this rather cryptic love note: "I'm Sorry Bitch :) GG FGT SLT BTCH! HACKED BY THE NIGGAS AT DFNCTSC" Ooh. How ghetto.

Within minutes, various Internet sites posted the cell phone's supersecret contents, including new photos of Paris' heiress breasts (again) as well as unlisted telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of our hacking target's celeb pals. Among those who are now in danger of being stalked, called or spammed are Eminem, Lindsay Lohan, Christina Aguilera, Andy Roddick, Ashlee Simpson, Victoria Gotti, Vin Diesel and Anna Kournikova.

One A-lister, who shall remain unnamed because, well, I really have no clue who he or she was, expressed outrage at poor Paris. "I gave her my number after we met in Miami. I did not know she f**king kept it on her cell phone!" the now-pissed off star articulated. Oh, the Care Bear locked away somewhere in the toilet of my heart feels their pain.

And as if that bit of non-news wasn't enough, Paris' private notes—some of them detailing meetings with record execs and others, reminders to buy Frankie B jeans—were likewise exposed. A government source said the FBI has opened an investigation into the hack, possibly to prevent Paris' nudie pics from further frightening an already grief-stricken world. Kidding.

Nonetheless, there's a rumor going around that her password was conned out of her, which would be awesome to hear if you're a worried-to-death T-Mobile subscriber. (It would mean the servers are theoretically intact. On the other hand, Paris' ability to keep important things, like passwords, hush-hush is perhaps not.) Now, whether Tinkerbell, al-Qaida or an evil coven of rival socialites was behind this dastardly deed is still anyone's (pejorative) guess.

Cursed celebutante?

Call it a precisely engineered coincidence, but this is not the first time Paris Hilton has become the punch line of the nastiness of others. In 2003, she went from supermodel perfection to Macaulay Culkin-clownlike lips and doleful eyes—upon learning that her purse had been stolen.

"We got jacked, man," said Hilton, scraping the floor with her sneaker. She was concerned about her passport since she was supposed to go to Germany in a couple of days. And yeah, the thief also carted away her platinum-and-diamond Franck Muller watch, worth about $20,000. Yikes! (Then again, she has money hanging out of her ass so I take that back. Ha!) "People are always stealing my stuff. This happens all the time. Everyone is mean," she sighed. It's okay, Paris. Or not.

PARIS HILTON

Anyway, bear in mind that everyone's meanness also brought about her dog's mysterious disappearance last year and this current Sidekick scandal. Is Paris Hilton really cursed, or do people just like pissing her off? And do people do that because she's easy to annoy or easily annoying? Is Angelina Jolie, like, a homewrecking slut? Pardon my incessant questioning. Just checking if I still have your attention.

Irritating Celebrities 101

Maureen Orth, author of "The Importance of Being Famous," said that celebrity culture has become such a huge area with so much monetary and cultural impact that it demands as much investigative reporting as the White House or Wall Street. (Paris Hilton? Culture? The irony.) "Familiar faces, everyone now seems to realize, not only attract large audiences; they provoke sympathy, trust and identification."

So given the now-huge and undeniable role that celebrities play in our lives as ordinary people, is the opposite also true? Can these "familiar faces" cause disbelief, skepticism and indifference in the same way? More than that, can celebrities get on the nerves of the very people they're trying to entertain? I'd like to play devil's advocate and say "Exactamundo!" to all those questions.

Fine. I like Paris Hilton. It didn't start out that way but I've learned to like her because there are other stars who are way more annoying than she is. Like, obnoxious, off-the-charts, beyond-Jar Jar Binks annoying. At the top of my head, I can name William Hung, Tom Hanks, Jessica Simpson, Mariah Carey, Renée Zellwegger and that girl formerly from Evanescence as some of the personalities who fall under that hydra-headed category. Locally, there are too many to mention, but Kris Aquino, the Barretto sisters, Mystica and Willie Revillame top many people's lists of marginally talented *artistas* they wish would drop dead.

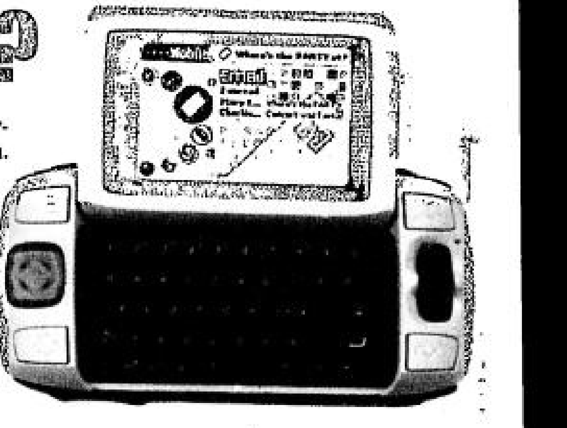
Payback's a beeyatch

As consumers of popular entertainment, we pay these celebrities to entertain us. What do they do instead? They make us want to barf in a bag and eat it. Week after brain-atrophying week, we're subjected to local variety shows with non-*artistes* who look like they skipped lip-synching practice. Not to mention, we're cherry-bombed by show biz talk shows filled with starlets whose behavior is governed by the laws of 12th-century Prussia.

It seems like there's only one genuinely capable performer for every 10 or 100 gimmick-packed celebrities that come down the assembly line. (Human curiosity feeds the voyeur within but there's a limit. It's called "D' Bodies.") How's their acting, you ask? What acting? Again, exactamundo!

Admittedly, there's a degree of envy on our part because these infamous folks are still more recognizable than us and have more fans than we do—the quality, however, is questionable. So when you think about it, we have nothing to lose by making fun of them. Really.

To the more sensitive and uptight members of society, belittling others in order to feel a flashing moment of intellectual superiority may seem evil. So freakin' what? These obnoxious stars bugged us first and we have every right to bug them back. It's called payback, peeps, and it's one big-ass beeyatch. Look at it this way: Residents of Famousville can sue us for saying bad things about them but we can't sue them for bad acting, grating conduct or an obviously staged sex scandal. (Remember, we care about privacy, unless it's the privacy of someone famous. Paging Ethel Booba.) Where does that leave us then?



A T-MOBILE Sidekick II

When! Fans! Secretly! Attack!

We put these irritating celebrities up there. We can also take them down. Here are good, bad and utterly inexplicable signs that you—yes, you!—are already annoying some of these famous people without you—or them—knowing it. Kids, let's chip away at their precious careers by pushing their show biz buttons. Repeatedly. Secretly. Now.

1 Every time you quote Nietzsche, listen to Bach, or do absolutely anything that requires brain power, a member of the Masculados hangs up his Speedos. For good.

2 You see the Sex Bomb Dancers on TV. You look at your *yaya*. Back to Sex Bomb. Then to *yaya*. A bulb suddenly lights up in your head.

3 Luis Manzano is a "VJ." Sandara Park is a "singer." Adolf Hitler had "issues." *Riiiight.*

4 On a Sunday afternoon, it's a toss-up between Paolo Bediones on "S-Files" and Cristy Fermin on "The Buzz." After three seconds, you decide to tune into a National Geographic special on roaming wildebeest. Score.

5 In your opinion, it's not enough that one makes disparaging noises at the sight of Heart Evangelista's billboards. So you take charge and buy yourself a paintball gun. Next thing you know, you're being arrested for vandalism and going down in a blaze of glory. Fight the power!

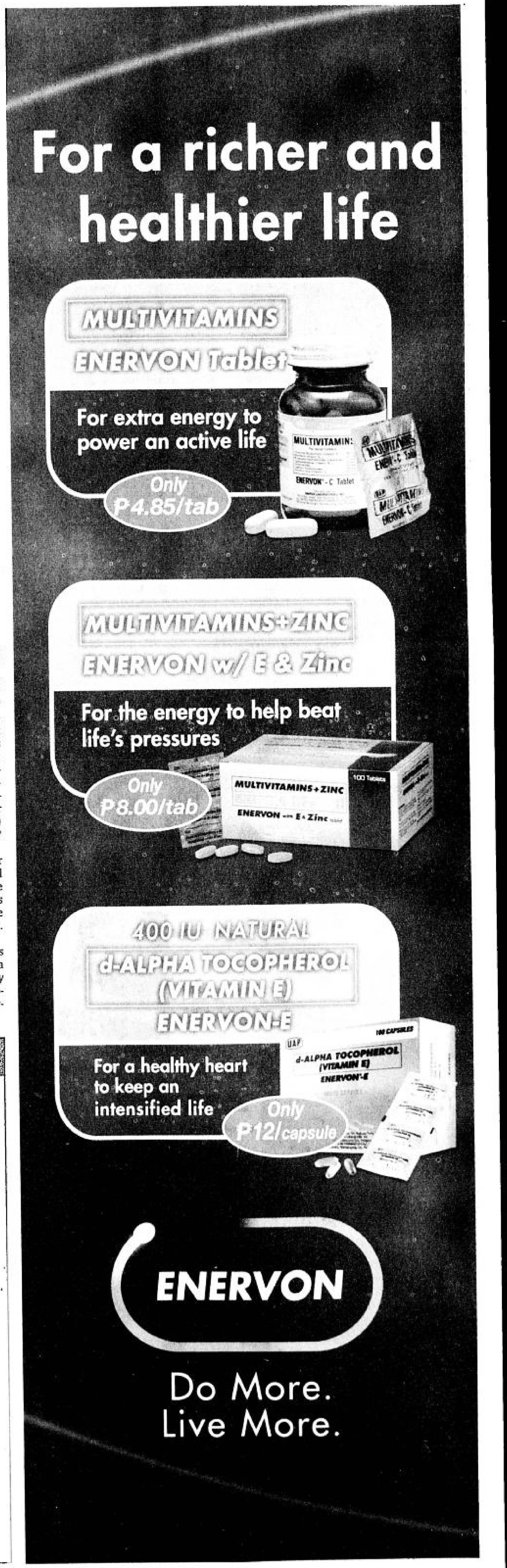
6 You realize that no matter how much Kris Aquino cries in her soap opera or how often she drums up publicity to keep herself in circulation, her thespian flair has been one giant *sic* from the get-go. But mind you, it's a giant *sic*.

7 Speaking of, er, beef, Carlos Agassi can now be seen essaying the role of Caloy in the ABS-CBN quote, unquote sitcom "Bora (Sons of the Beach)." He stars alongside other members of the earnestly-named group The Hunks. In related news, several whale sharks beached themselves outside the ABS-CBN studios to protest the show. Yes, boo.

8 Lastly, you're a card-carrying member of The Niggas at DFNCTSC and you prey upon hapless hotel heiresses/reality stars by hacking into their cell phone address books. Oops. Did I already say that? Teehee.

Pardon me.

Anyway, the most important thing to remember in our crusade for quality entertainment is that veiled euphemism or sarcastic backlash may not be enough to torment our on-air irritants. This is when we start taking an ax to these celebrities and their stupid shows by paying them no mind. Yes, you heard that right. We simply switch the TV off, not line up to see their movies, and not buy the products they hawk. Eventually their pocketbooks will feel the burn, their manipulative, supercreepy managers will get the hint and hopefully, these celebs will go away and move to Channel 13. After all, what good is an annoying celebrity if he or she has no one left to annoy? And when that happens, we can all shout "You've been Punk'd!" followed by "*Vive la revolucion!*" followed by, uhm, that's it I guess. The end.



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Warning	warning
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Walking Contradiction	walking
American Idiot	americanidiot
Boulevard of Broken Dreams	brokendreams

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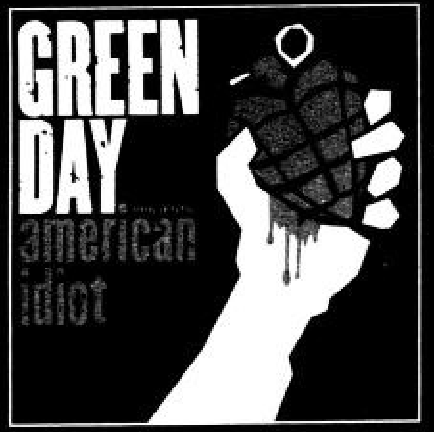
Breaking the Habit	Linkin Park	breakdhabit
Numb	Linkin Park	numb
Breathe	Prodigy	breathe
Hot Ride	Prodigy	hotride
Change the World	P.O.D.	changedworld
Another One Bites the Dust	Queen	anotherone
Here In My Room	incubus	hereinmyroom
This Love	Maroon 5	thislove
Harder to Breathe	Maroon 5	hard2breathe



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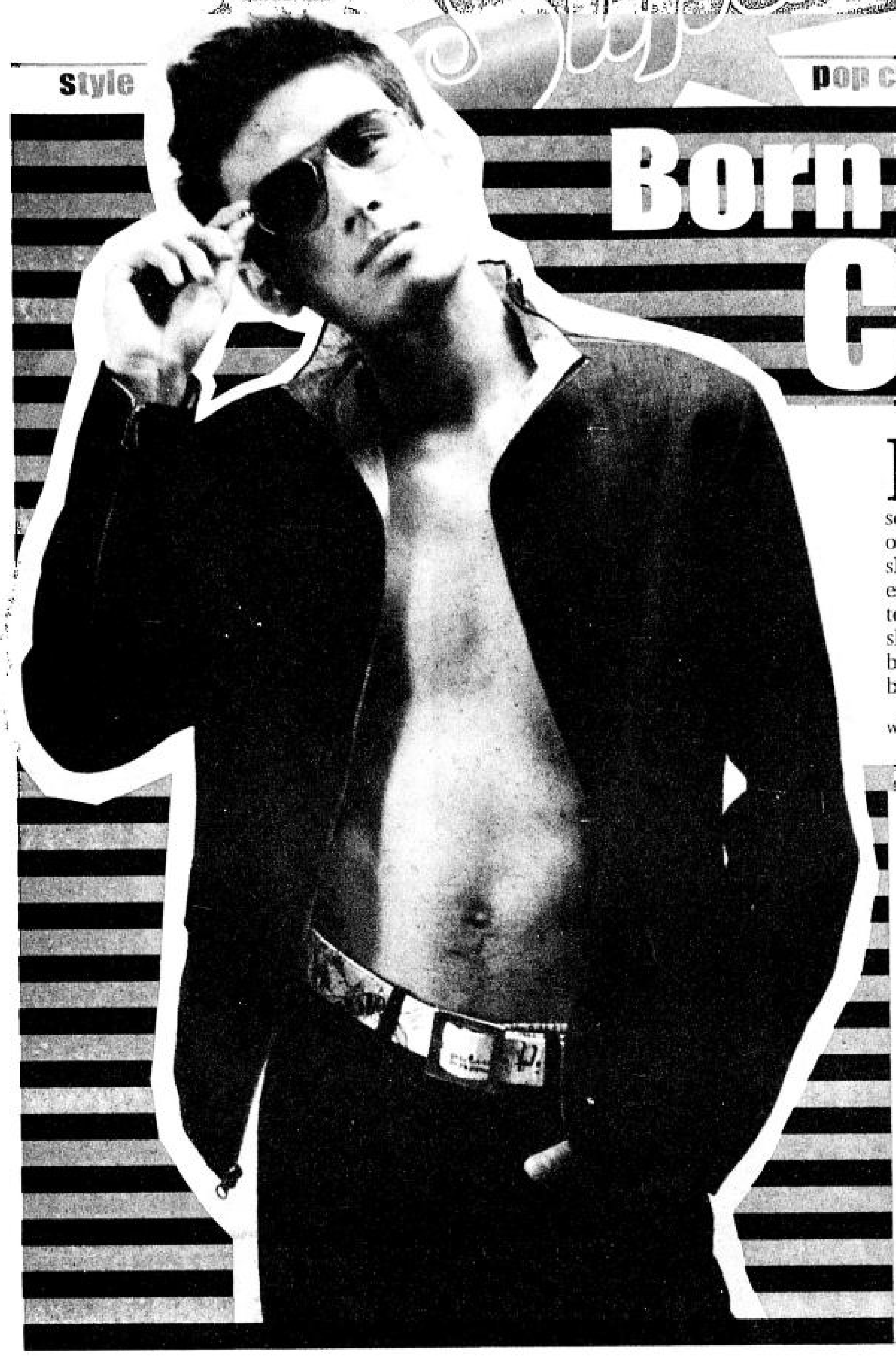

Born again Christian

Tim Yap

HE'S MORE than just a good boy. Not since the late actor Rico Yan have you seen someone's face splattered all over—this wholesome goody-two-shoes boy-next-door type pitching everything from cell phone cards to pizza and donuts. In such a short time, Christian Bautista has become the boy you'd want to bring home to mom.

His climb was steadfast and peppered with all the right ingredients of what young Filipinos want to achieve. His roots are in theater with Christian group Trumpets, which instilled in him a rock hard foundation of the love of God. His claim to fame was being a runner-up in Star in a Million which endeared him to a broader mass audience.

BORN/ E2

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balladeer is

surefire

streak

Born again Christian

From page E1

His rise to stardom was his undeniably good looks, smoldering balladeer voice and seemingly limitless dedication to his craft.

Perfect timing, since Tinseltown was eagerly awaiting its next singing Prince Charming. Christian stepped up to the role and owned it.

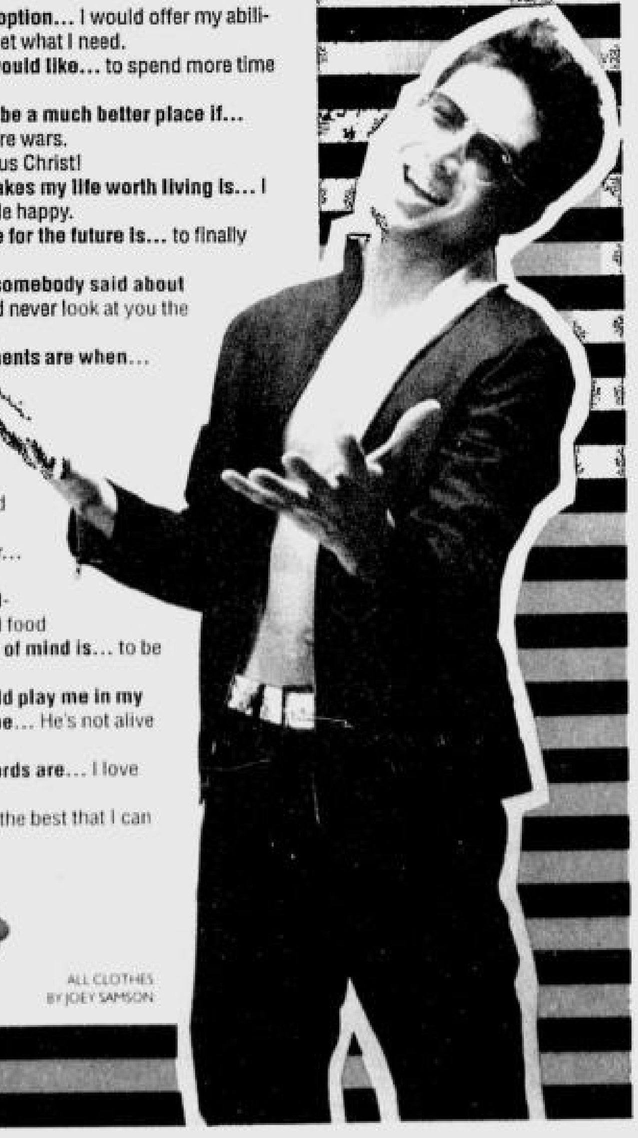
Prior to this, he got himself a degree in Architectural Landscaping in UP Diliman. Aside from being the concert scene's next brightest star, would you believe that this guy is a closet Edward Scissorhands?

Gardening takes a backseat though as Christian is one week away from that deal-clincher that would make or break his status as this industry's new prince.

I've seen him perform countless medleys on ASAP, onstage with legends like Kuh Ledesma and entertaining Filipinos abroad and I must say, he is on a surefire winning streak, enchanting his *kababayans* with his sincerity and unpretentious charm.

Gearing up for his first major solo concert at the Araneta Coliseum on March 4, Christian Bautista takes time to sign in the Super! Guestbook.

The thing about fame is that... It's not that easy to get there, and it's harder to stay there.
The thing I love most about what I do is... traveling
People might be surprised to know that... I like eating pork and beans heated straight from the can.
The most important thing I've ever learned is that... life is hard without God.
I wish when I started off I've been told to... be more careful on what I do and say.
The worst thing that ever happened to me was... someone lied to me.
And what this taught me was... love
The secret to happiness is... found in Jesus Christ.
My best ever outfit consisted of... a Dolce and Gabbana pinstriped shirt, pants and long-sleeved shirt.
My Super! saturday night consists of... a concert! and the party afterwards!
The soundtrack to my life would include... "When You Love Me" by Josh Groban.
If I was invisible for a day, I would... scare people.
The thing that makes me most angry is... lies
If I was the most powerful person on earth... I'd use my power to end poverty.
The best thing about family is that... we are true to each other and we love each other.
When I'm gone, they'll probably say... He was a good person.
If money was no option... I would offer my abilities and time, to get what I need.
When I retire, I would like... to spend more time with my family.
The world would be a much better place if... there were no more wars.
My hero is... Jesus Christ!
The thing that makes my life worth living is... I get to make people happy.
My greatest hope for the future is... to finally have peace.
The worst thing somebody said about me was... I could never look at you the same way again.
My favorite moments are when... I'm with the ones I love.
My most embarrassing moment was when... I cracked while singing.
I'm saving up for... land
My biggest indulgence is... Good food
My current state of mind is... to be focused.
If someone would play me in my biopic it would be... He's not alive yet.
My 5 favorite words are... I love you very much!
I aspire to be... the best that I can be.



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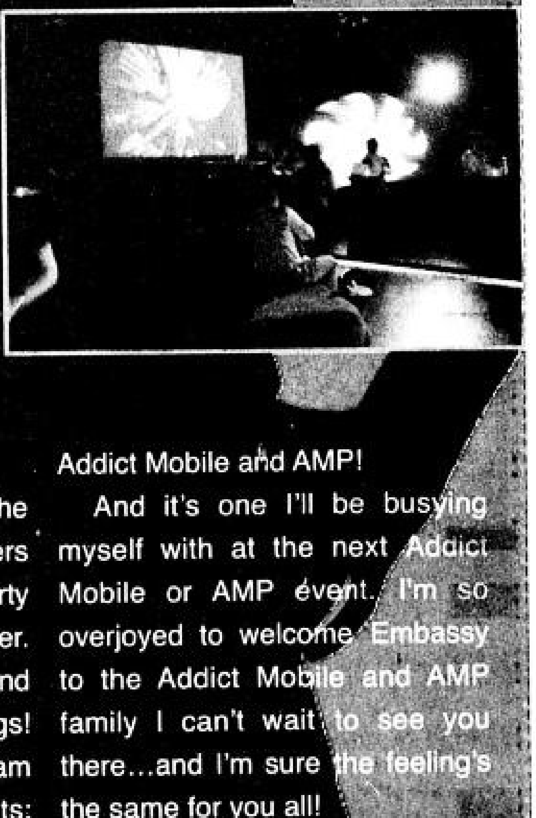


Hola darlings! Well, it's great to see a new venue for the party scene, which in my view has been otherwise growing a tad stale and tired (Boo-hoo, to tell you the truth). My, my, but when Embassy, that fab new club at the Fort recently swung open its doors, it was an eye-opener for everybody on the lookout for something tantalizingly fresh.

And lucky Addict Mobile and AMP subs were there to drink it all in. I must say the old style wooden plank floors lent a whimsical contrast to the otherwise postmodern dÈcor—sort of your standard Makati house circa 70s. And what a jaw-dropping VIP room! Warmly lit inside were about a dozen semi-enclosed Japanese Ginza tables. Cozy!

Of course there to rack up the heat were the hot AMP endorsers who had their own special party at Embassy just a few days after. Everyone was there to ogle and hobnob with celebrities, darlings! That is, anyway, the main glam activity at these posh events; that, and downloading your own glam and active lifestyle on Addict Mobile and AMP!

And it's one I'll be busying myself with at the next Addict Mobile or AMP event. I'm so overjoyed to welcome Embassy to the Addict Mobile and AMP family I can't wait to see you there...and I'm sure the feeling's the same for you all!

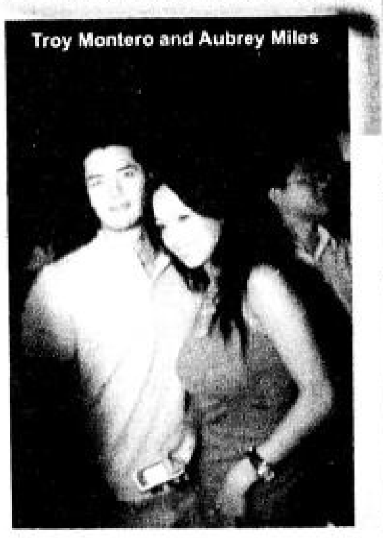
Addict Mobile's Tim Yap enjoys Embassy with a friend

Posting for posterity

AMP endorser Juddah Paolo with a lovely companion

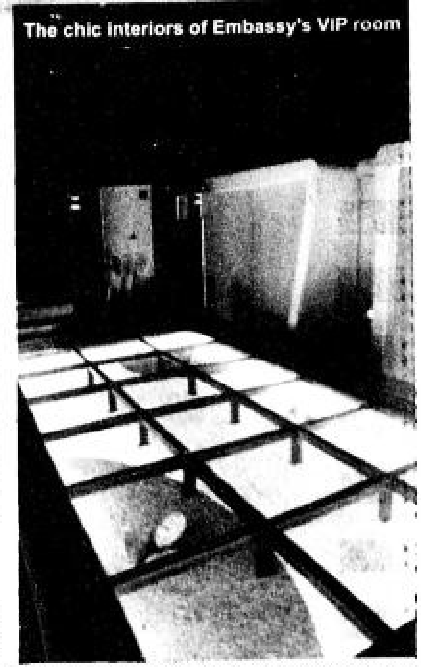
Kelly Miles and Bianca Fernandez

[illegible] out what the hype is all about



Troy Montero and Aubrey Miles

Tisha Silang



The chic interiors of Embassy's VIP room

The Superclub's main dance floor

Avi Siwa

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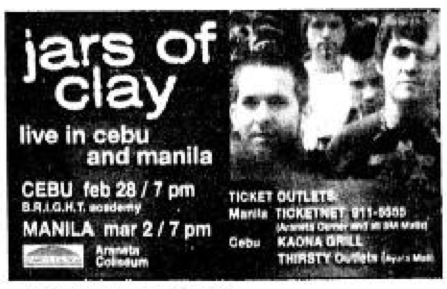
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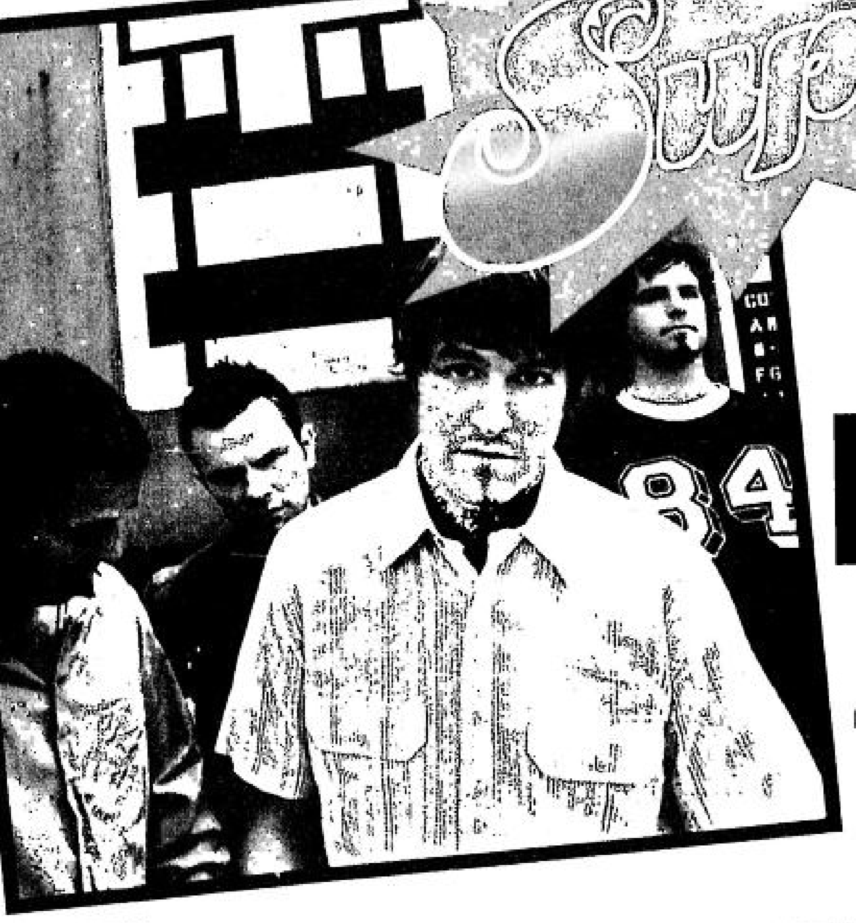
Living Down The 'Flood'



IT'S BEEN 10 years since Jars Of Clay skyrocketed to fame with their biggest hit "Flood," but the song has stuck all these years. Now that the band is coming to the Philippines for two concerts (on Feb. 28 in Cebu and on March 2 in Manila), Jars Of Clay tunes are filling the airwaves again. This time

LIVING/ F2

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MUST-SEE. Jars Of Clay in Manila on March 2 and in Cebu on Feb. 28

Living Down The 'Flood'

From page F1

around though, "Flood" doesn't happen as often, as say, "Show You Love," "Sunny Days" or "Lonely People" (originally by America). These songs seem to be the most popular in their album Who We Are Instead.

For the avid followers of Jars Of Clay, their return to roots in this album is evident. In an interview with a local paper, Jars Of Clay keyboardist Charlie Lowell said he and Dan Haseltine were discussing the question of communicating the gospel in a way that people can relate to.

"This record is a little more soulful and a little less shiny," adds Lowell. The sound is very raw and acoustic, with much of Legend Johnny Cash's influence coming through, especially in their directness about faith. The honesty does strike at the heart of listeners.

For Lowell, it's important to discuss not just the joy, peace and victory that the gospel gives, but also the frustration, sorrow, and confusion of being a Christian living in this world. "Joy is never joy without suffering," adds Dan Haseltine, lead vocalist. "It's telling the story and not, for the sake of comfort, leaving out the characters of suffering and frustration and anger..." This frank and honest look at Christianity is what attracts even the "indifferent" to the music of Jars Of Clay.

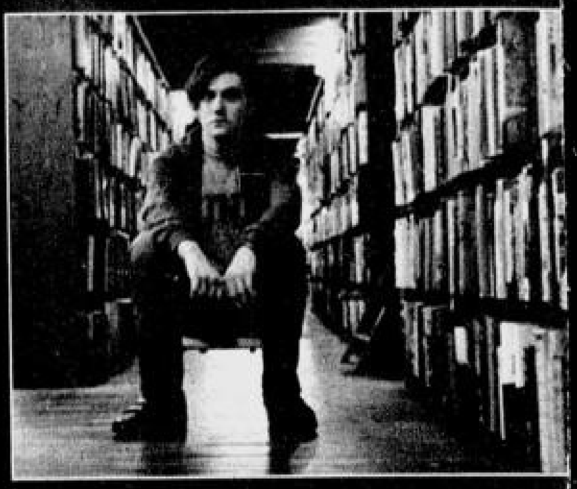
Guitarist Steve Mason was as honest as could be when he confessed that at one point, everyone in the band realized that they "didn't necessarily like each other." The band survives because they make a decision to stay together. Mason says it's the push and pull in the band that has taught him to seek God in the unpredictable (especially in times of dispute with the other members). The experience, he says, gives him reason to seek God in other areas of his life.

Matt Odmark must be the most objective in the group. Dubbed "the compass," Odmark is the one who makes sure that Jars Of Clay is always aligned with their overall goals of ministry, and reminds everyone of their bottomline—of the right thing to do, no matter how hard it is. "The deeper you walk with people," he says, "the more that person challenges your view of who God is." Odmark believes that 98 percent of our interaction with God is through people. In this case, four very different people.

Together, the strikingly complementary personalities are growing in their understanding of their purpose, and the purpose of their music—from early "Flood," to who they are instead.

Tickets to Jars of Clay Show You Love Live in Cebu, Live in Manila now available at SM Ticketnet outlets in Metro Manila and in Kaona Grill at the Cebu Business Park.

Concert dates: Feb. 28 (Cebu, B.R.I.G.H.T. Academy) and March 2 (Araneta Coliseum).



THE DIFFERENT faces and phases of Conor Oberst

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By Johan Egger

SUCH an intricate title deserves some explaining. Let me introduce to you, Conor Oberst, also known as Bright Eyes; or rather, Conor Oberst, lead singer, songwriter, and heart of the band Bright Eyes. Or maybe, Conor Oberst, the Bob Dylan of today who recently, The Clash style, released two albums at the same time.

Conor, hailing from Omaha (Nebraska, US), is a creative explosion, and the 24-year-old has been exploding for some 10 years now. As a young teenager, the broken-hearted, lonely soul started releasing singles at a pace rarely seen since the '60s.

What was even more striking, however, was the brilliance with which Conor played with words, and the way the twisted, lo-fi recordings were able to touch music journalists across the globe. Over a night, Bright Eyes was the new favorite band of every other independent writer.

Having released a number of singles, one compilation of singles and B-sides, split singles, one industrial punk project, and two studio albums, Conor, however, risked being forgotten as a sad indie kid who did little else but sing about his broken heart, and mirrors reflecting a lost soul.

He then decided to release two albums at the same time, and just like was the case when The Clash once released "London Calling"; both albums are top notch. Although, in contrast to The Cl
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Sugarfree's sweet relief

By Alex Almario

GIVING romanticism and earnestness new currency in the Philippine rock scene has its rewards after all. Those who came up with the unspoken rule that post-Eraserheads bands should be wrapped up in angst or irony to be successful apparently never said anything to Sugarfree. As the trio discovered in their five years of existence, there apparently exists a huge number of alienated romantics in the country, all aching for affirmation.

Having tasted success after years of hardships and heartaches, these minstrels of melancholy are not about to apologize for being happier

"The greatest compliment that you can get is when someone tells you: 'Your album really helped me get through very hard times, thank you.' *Hindi mo naman kilala yung tao, tapos nakatulong ka nang ganon...grabe* (You don't even know the person but you were able to help him that much. That's swell)," shares Sugarfree frontman and chief songwriter Ebe Dancel.

Hit album

Dancel, along with bassist Jal Taguibao and drummer Mitch Singson, went through some hard times of their own. After years of line-up changes, bankruptcy, a disappointing stint with a record label, and personal heartaches, Sugarfree finally released their debut album "Sa Wakas" in 2003, becoming one of the most critically-acclaimed albums that year and instantly producing a cult following in the Philippine band scene.

Dancel still remembers the first time they inspired a huge concert crowd to sing along to "Mariposa," one of their hits from "Sa Wakas" that tackles loneliness and unrequited love. "There were literally thousands of people singing 'Mariposa' with me. *Mangiyak-ngiyak ako* backstage. It was such an overwhelming experience," he says.

"We get compliments everyday, from our mailing list and our tours," says Taguibao, who relates how the band's sheer power of empathy has often become a source of frustration for some fans who feel the band's songs had deprived them of feeling or experiencing their own thoughts and emotions.

"*Na ba*-bad trip *sila kay* Ebe," Taguibao laughs. "*Talagang asar*. I have encountered at least two or three of them in the mailing list. One member even said that he won't listen to Sugarfree for the meantime."

Tall order

For the last two years, that sort of thing has become a tall order. The band reached gold record-status with "Sa Wakas," stringing hits and romantic classics such as "Telepono," "Mariposa," and "Burnout." With people still enamored with their debut album, Sugarfree released a follow-up late last year called "Dramachine." The album's second single, "Hari ng Sablay," has been getting heavy airplay from major pop FM stations, while its music video currently lingers at the top ten of music channel Myx.

For a band that only wanted to put out an album, things are definitely looking up. "Sa Wakas," which was mostly about heartbreak and loss, sounded like a relief somewhat. With "Dramachine," the sense of relief is now palpable.

From its opening tracks, especially the goosebump-inducing exhilaration of "Prom," to the very last lines of the album: "*natagpuan ko na ang tunay na ligaya* (I've found true happiness)," "Dramachine" signals the band's emotional transformation.

Dancel, whose semi-tragic relationship resumé became the inspiration for most of the songs in "Sa Wakas," relates that "Dramachine" takes its mood from the band's experiences for the last two years.

"I wrote those songs (in "Dramachine") when I was in a happy state. After we released our first album, good things started happening to us and happening to me, so it was a reflection of how I was feeling at that time. Last year and this year, those were very good years for us. We got the gigs, we'd hear our songs on the radio, and we got a loyal following," he says.

As legendary as "Sa Wakas" is to many devoted circles, the group still saw a huge room for improvement to work with on the next album.

Doing better

"Looking back at 'Sa Wakas,' there were many things we realized we should have done, production-wise," Taguibao says. "With the help of our producers, Raymund Marasigan and Buddy Zabala (of Eraserheads and Cambio fame), we tried to put all the guitar and drum sounds that we wanted in the first album to this one."

Dancel admits that there was a conscious effort to outdo their debut album. "I think that should be the goal of every musician—not to outdo other musicians—but to outdo yourself, make yourself a better person, a better musician. Because you can only go forward. And that's why people just retire because they reach a point where they have nothing left to prove. I hope to retire someday," he says.

It may seem overly forward-looking on his part but Dancel has always been stubborn about his future. Being a successful musician was the only thing he wanted, even if his parents and siblings, who are mostly professionals (a doctor, lawyer, dentist, architect, and "an MBA graduate with a big-ass job"), often lectured him for supposedly lacking ambition.

Nonetheless, Dancel's family has been behind him from the start. Wagering his entire life savings on Sugarfree's demo tape, his parents supported him through the two years when "Sa Wakas" was on the shelf. "For two years, *wala akong trabaho, hindi ako makalabas ng bahay, ni yosi hindi ako makabili*. But my parents were supportive from day one. They understood that I had to do this, which is something I can't afford to do 10 years from now," he says.

NO CAVITIES. The boys of Sugarfree—Ebe, Jal and Mitch

Sugarfree was originally an offshoot of the band Session Road, whose members, Jesse Hoover (keyboard), Chavi Romawac (drums), and Taguibao (drums), in 1999 joined Dancel, who was already armed with original songs. Rivermaya's Rico Blanco later had a brief stint with the band but eventually left to focus on his own band. By the time they got signed by a major label, they were left with three members, with Singson on drums.

They shifted to EMI records in 2003 in the hopes of finally releasing an album. "Our objective when we started out was just to have an album released. *Noong naging ka-banda ko si* Jal, *malakas ang kutob ko na makakapaglabas kami ng* album. *Hindi sisikat ha, makapaglabas lang ng* album," Dancel says.

The band's persistence resulted into "Sa Wakas," a 12-track Pinoy rock opus about the pain of separation, regret, and wistful recollections of youth and innocence, all told in beautifully succinct plain language-poetry powered by emotional wallops of dense sounds and yearning vocals.

Most of the band's emotional core comes from Dancel—its main songwriter/vocalist, who has the uncanny skill of mixing terse statements with meaningful cries and croons, producing sharp musical injections to listeners' hearts.

Dancel, who Taguibao jokingly refers to as the band's "Birit King," explains that he is unable to sing in low notes, which is why most of their songs have an inert passionate charge. "When I write a song, I already know which words to accent or give vocal effects," he says.

There have been instances, though, when vocal effects weren't done by design. During the recording of the demo version of "Unang Araw," Taguibao relates that Dancel was suffering from a cold during the vocal take for the song. "*Hirap na hirap si* Ebe *noon, sabi niya: 'tsong, may sipon ako'. Sabi ko: 'yun nga yon, kasi kaiiyak mo lang, eh'*. If you listen
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I've got the Solution for you

By Johan Egger

WHAT does "soul" mean to you? For me, the answer is simple. I do adore the tenderness of Erykah Badu. I do love the sweetness of Angelo. I do inhale the emotions of Angie Stone. BUT, for me the answer is simple. For me, soul is Motown, soul is Stax, soul is the '60s. That is probably why I fell so deeply in love with a somewhat strange constellation, named The Solution.

The Solution consists of Scott Morgan, a white bloke from Detroit who once sang blue eyed soul in The Rationals, and Nicke Andersson, the lead vocalist in hard rock band The Hellacopters. The first time the two gentlemen met, they got themselves into a studio to record a song. Since then, the somewhat odd musical couple have been moving forward. Or, is it backward? Because, listening to the album, there is not really any way of telling whether this is an old recording from the '60s or not.

The debut album, titled "Communicate," is a reflection of one of the most intense, emotional, and danceable music styles ever. "Communicate" will surely bring you back to the '60s.

Then one may claim: "Well, what new does it then bring to the scene?" My answer would then be: "Well, not much." The Solution does not really offer anything new, "Communicate" is rather the result of two individuals' love for '60s soul. What The Solution does offer, however, is a brilliant soul album that surely will get you moving.

"My Mojo Ain't Workin' No More" is a soulful love story that will get any old couple to again smile at each other. "Would You Change Your Mind" is a somewhat funky reminder of Sly & The Family Stone. "Phoenix" could, with a female vocalist, have been any Shirelles hit or another, and the story goes on throughout the 12-song album released on Psychout Records; an album that, in its lack of surprises, offers a sweet reminder of what really good, old soul really sounds like.

Rarely have I been so happy to hear something new, that sounds so old.

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ish release, Conor de- lease two albums that each other, in produc- style.

t one of them, titled Awake, It's Morn- nore in common with of previous releases. ence is, however, ob-

o longer longs to chal- audience with twisted ty recordings, and a roduction. The album s back to the roots of gwriter traditions, nple yet touching and brilliant poetry. In g number, "Road To r puts things the fol- y:

came up with no con- Flowers sleeping in . The city cemetery's I'm wide awake it's

ve pretty much symbolizes the brilliance at which Conor treats words, and the fact that Emmylou Harris is the guest vocalist on a couple of songs further strengthens an album that would have been brilliant had it been released alone. It was, however, not. "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning" has a brother (or is it a sister?) in the somewhat colder, eclectic, electric "Digital Ash In A Digital Urn."

On the second album Conor challenges himself, and the listener, by moving away from the firm ground on which he has been standing for some 10 years now. Just like the title, and the black album cover, hints, this album is rather a reflection of an industrial, grey society than of a warm acoustic world flavored by Bob Dylan.

It is obvious that Conor is searching for something; he does not yet feel safe in the world of drum machines. On the one hand, this results in an album that does not fit as perfectly together as "I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning" does. On the other hand, the fact that Conor even tries reflects the young curiosity he still feels about music, and the curiosity is a refreshing breeze felt throughout the album.

In the end I find it hard to decide which album is the best one, but despite being a music conservative stuck in the past, I do consider 2Digital Ash In A Digital Urn" to have the strongest song on it.

"Take It Easy (Love Nothing)" makes me feel grateful that Bright Eyes is still exploding from youthful curiosity. If you go down to Tower Records and get your hands on this album you will feel grateful that I am still writing about pop music from the other side of the globe.

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to that version of the song, notice that the stuffy-nosed ion actually adds drama" s.

fact, "Unang Araw," which bes in glorious detail the tion of missing someone ist lost, was written by Dan- hile on the throes of a l breakup. While walking d at home, he suddenly himself humming what d out to be the now classic s: "*Ito ang unang araw na ka na.*" It made him sit . dumbfounded for 10 min- I don't know why I sudden- nmed that line. I was listen- a lot of Sheryl Crow at that although I don't know if ad anything to do with it. I look back at that incident it really seems ridiculous," l says.

re is very little calculation ed in Dancel's songwriting s, where inspiration comes ndom attacks of cold. "Fade " his paean to childhood legy to loss of innocence, during a sermon from his r who told him: "You never up. What's wrong with

old her, 'no, I have grown he recalls. "Then I remem- how happy I was back in hool. That's how I came up he song. It's so sad when you up and you realize that you rown up already, You lose so " The tragedy and comfort e song exudes have touched Taguibao himself who de- "As morbid as it may sound, ng funeral *song ko. Pag iha- a ako, gusto ko 'yon.*"

arfree's penchant for un- ous brilliance appears in "Dramachine," particularly in between "Kandila" and "Kuwarto." "Kandila," a stripped-down acoustic track, is about a man who, because of a sudden power outage, is forced to come to grips with a recent breakup, ushering cries such as: "Sorry *'di kita hinabol… sorry, tayo'y malabo*" and "*Magka-ilaw man, madilim pa rin kung wala ka.*" The next track, "Kuwarto," depicts the process of letting go, as if trying to provide the closure for the previous song.

"It wasn't conscious, in terms of the arrangement of the tracks," Taguibao says. Dancel, realizing the serendipitous irony, says that "Kandila" was actually meant for the more melancholic "Sa Wakas," but was left out due to budget constraints.

"Kuwarto," on the other hand, came to him one day as he was cleaning up his bedroom upon the orders of his mother. At that time, he had an emotional baggage with a girl who left a lot of mementos in his room. When he placed them all in one drawer, he felt he finally achieved catharsis.

The time difference between the two songs is symbolic of the thematic distance between Sugarfree's two albums and how Dancel's fortunes changed over the years. While "Kandila" chronicled a breakup in 2001, "Kuwarto" was about moving on around the time when he met the current love of his life. Hence, the redemptive lines, which recurs in the album's closing reprise: "*natagpuan ko na ang tunay kong ligaya.*"

"There comes a time when you have to move on. *Kasi kung kakahiwalay niyo lang, masakit talaga.* It's going to hurt for weeks and for months. But is that how you want to live your life? Would you rather dwell on a past relationship?" Dancel asks.

The album's title, which was also one of the suggested names for the band Cambio (of which he's a member), was actually his own way of making fun of himself. "It's like saying, *ang drama-drama ko talaga, pag magsulat ako ng kanta,*" he says.

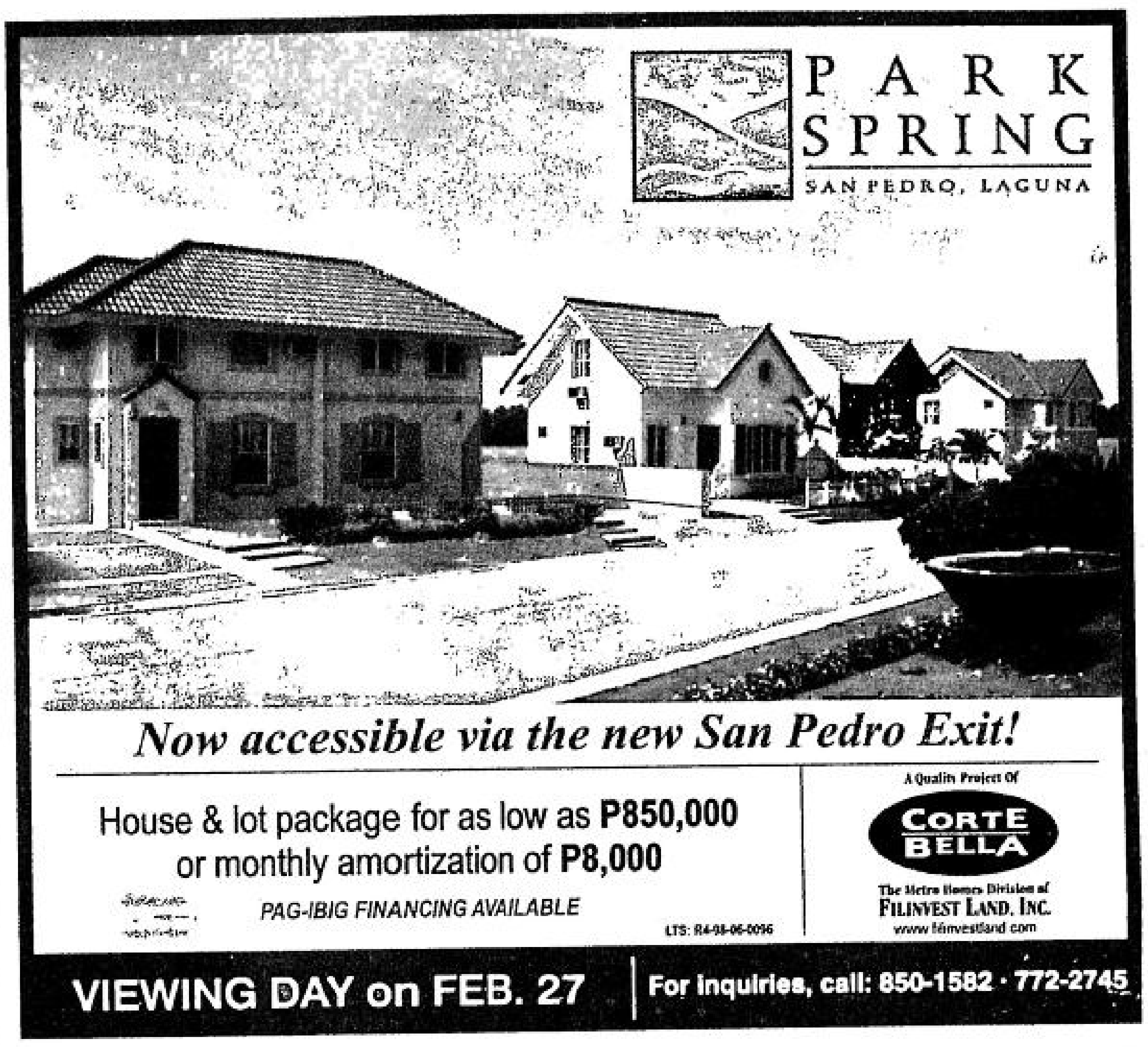
Taguibao believes that their second effort is a departure from their first. "The idea of love in 'Dramachine' is much wider, in the sense that it doesn't only focus on one-on-one love. Now it has even expanded to tributes and comic depictions of love," he says.

"Dramachine" is definitely cheerier and more optimistic than its predecessor. For those still transfixed with the melancholic beauty of "Sa Wakas," is this a welcome development?

Dancel insists that the happiness in "Dramachine" does not un-write his sad songs in "Sa Wakas." Believe it or not, happiness is good, as Sugarfree attests.

"When I wrote the songs in 'Sa Wakas,' I meant every word. But for the new album, I was happier. You eventually find that someone or something that helps you move on. For all we know, in the next album I may get my heart broken again. Life is a cycle and I don't think there's a way to stay on top. *Umiikot lang ng umiikot yan,*" Dancel said.

For the whole of next year, Dancel plans to take a break from writing songs and just concentrate on doing gigs. The band will be coming up with their third album in 2006. But for the moment, they just want to bask in the happiness they have earned. "It's okay to feel happy. It's okay to celebrate," Dancel says.



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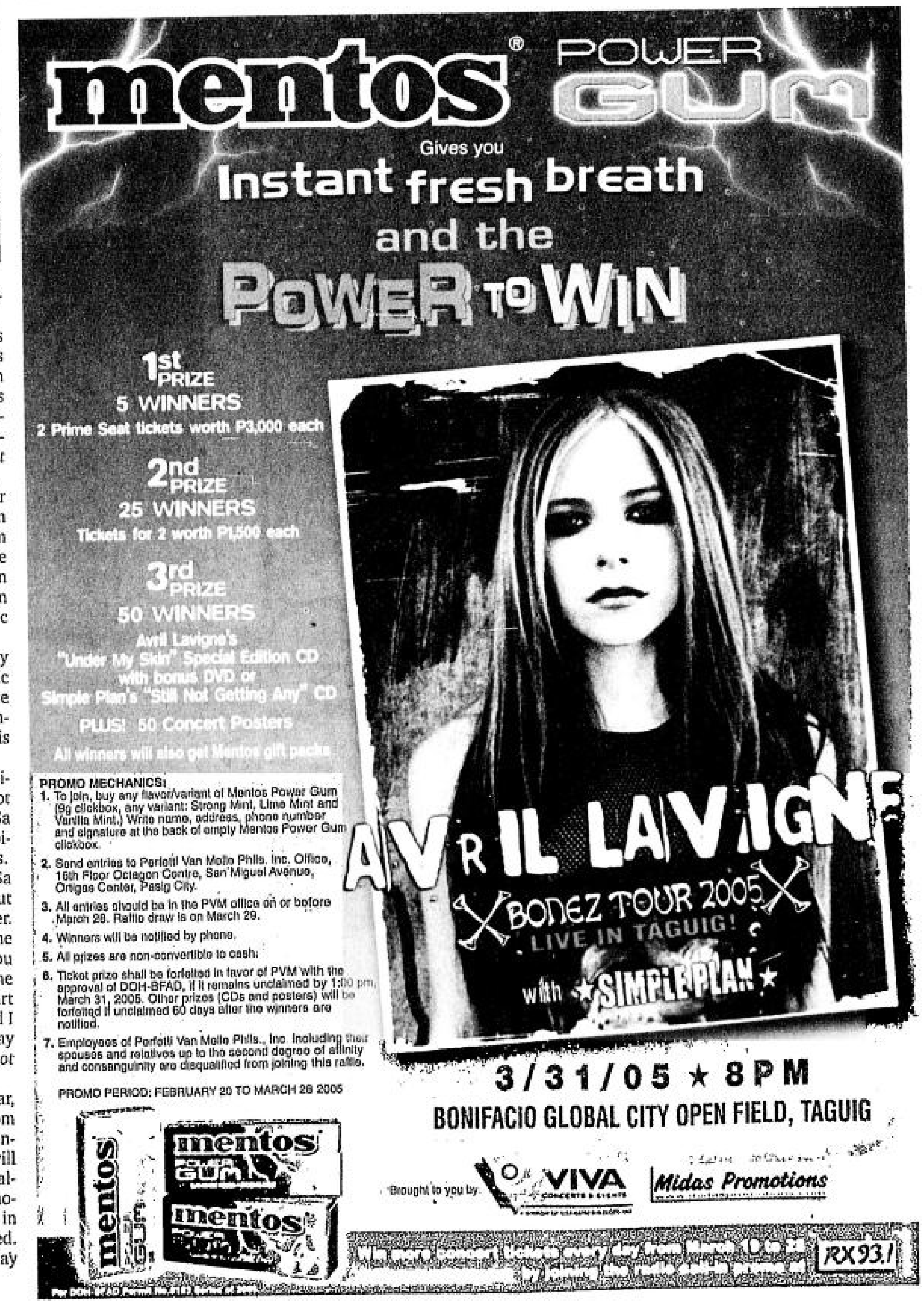

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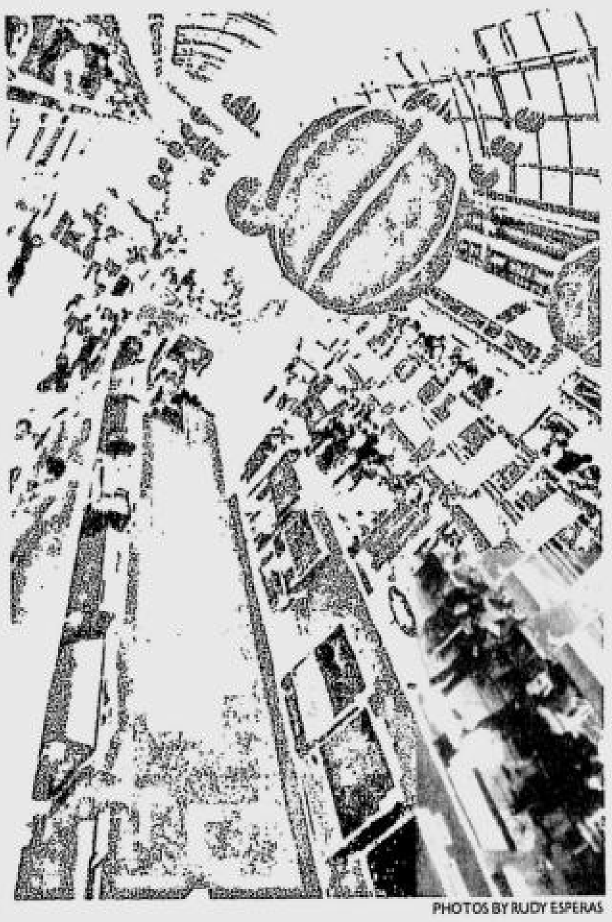
The third leg of Automatic Centre's plasma road show caps off at the Greenhills Shopping Center until March 6



PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

TECHNOLOGY has made (almost) all things possible, from communications to- entertainment. In many ways, it has made life easier and pleasurable. It has made things sleeker and hip.

Keeping up with the latest technology has become an "in" thing for most people. Who would want to be left out as long as one can afford it?

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"We want to share that experience to Filipinos," said Geoffrey Lim, Automatic Centre's general manager, office of the chairman. "And we want to educate people on what's hot in the market." Lim recently attended the Consumer Electronics Show 2005 in Las Vegas.

Leading consumer electronics brands Hitachi, JVC, LG, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Samsung, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, AOC, Audiovox and Kolin-Syntax will be showcasing over 50 of their best products in the exhibition which is ongoing at the Greenhills Shopping Center until March 6.

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Since 1948 Automatic Centre has introduced many of appliance technology's many milestones and breakthroughs. Automatic Centre chair Benito Lim said, "This is essential to our vision of uplifting the lives of Filipino families by being a trusted source of high-quality electronic goods.

Automatic Centre president Samie Lim, on the other hand, brought up the concept of edutainment, where the public is taught to appreciate new technology via this one-of-a-kind show. He said: "Through this exhibit, we want the people to realize the real good value of the products. "We want to educate the customers what quality is and that they should not settle for second best," he added.

Giving you the best viewing experience is not the only reason for you to check out Plasma Pleasures, Automatic Centre made sure that you would also take a peek with the latest and sought-after gadgets in town today. Feast your eyes with Apple i-Pod, digital still and video cameras from Canon, JVC, Panasonic, Samsung, and Sony as well as portable DVD players from Audiovox and Nextbase.

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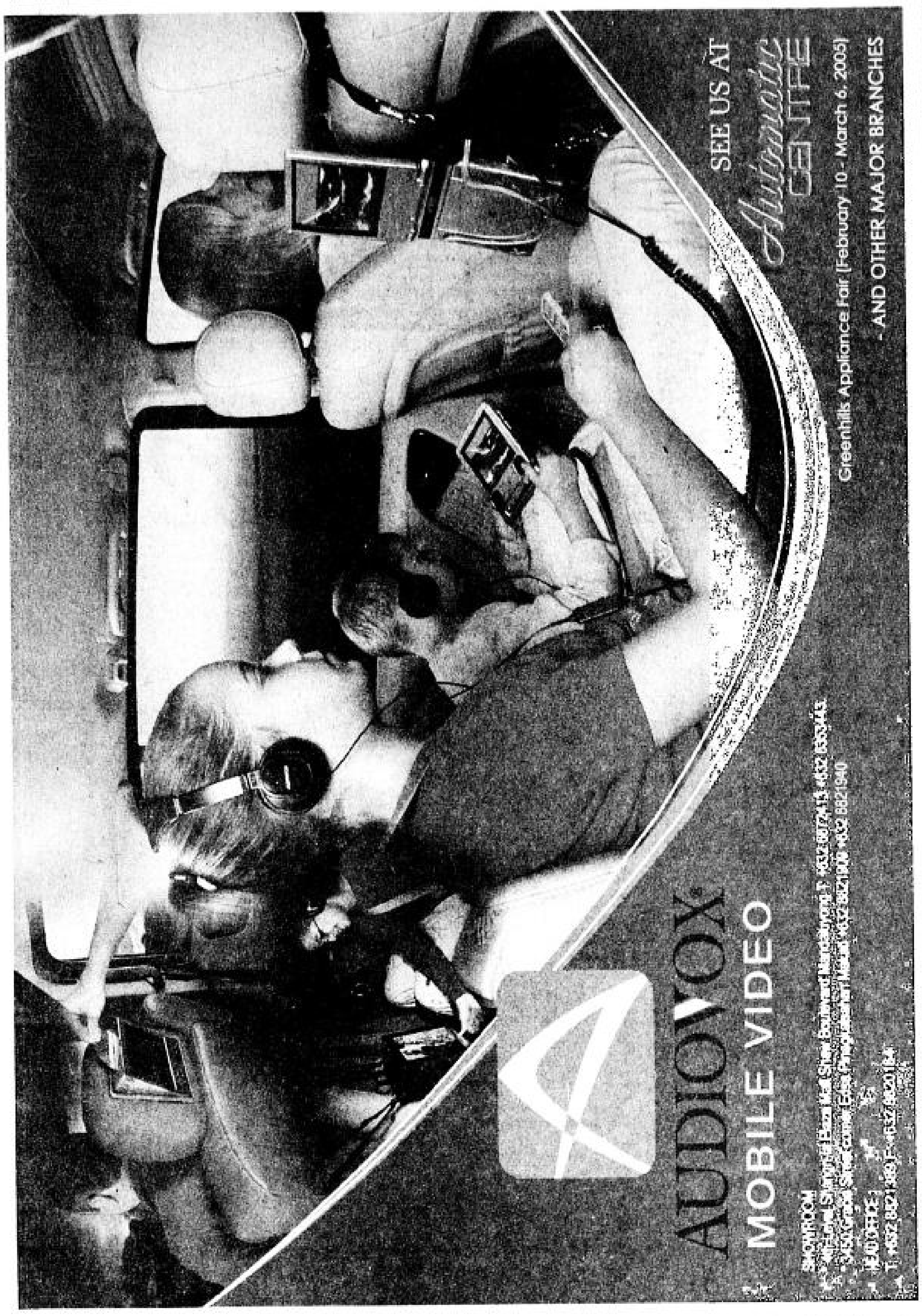
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SHOWN are (from left): Jeff Hong, LG Electronics Phils president; KC Montero, MTV Phils VJ; Tessie Tan, SVP, BPI Card Banking; Benito Lim, Automatic Centre chair; Begonia Ortigas of Ortigas & Co.; lawyer Rex Panumpang, chair, Greenhills Shopping Center Muslim Vendors Association and Angelo Valenton, Philips general manager.

Total entertainment...

From page G1

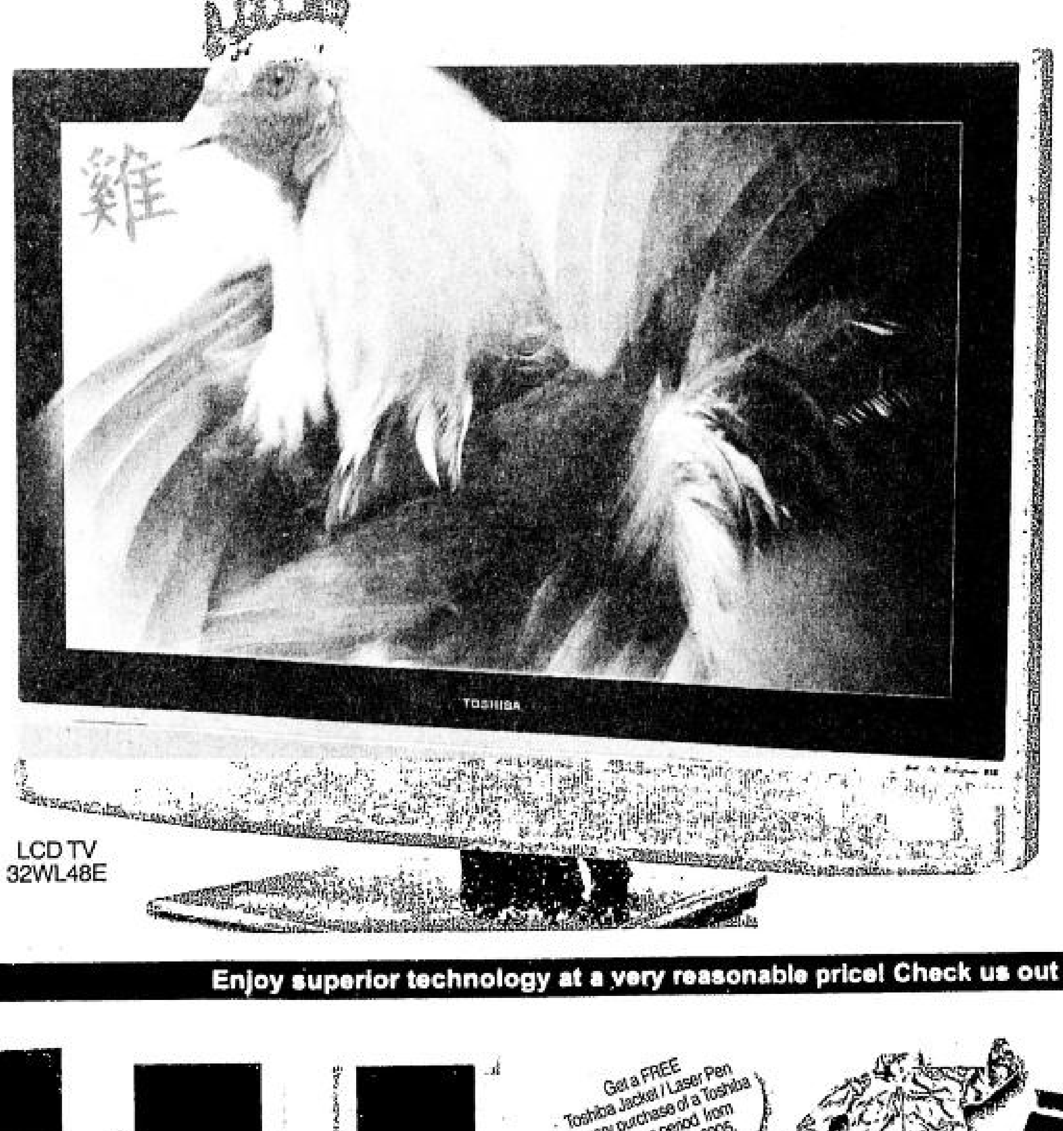
the opportunity to own the appliance of your dreams.

You can also get exciting freebies such as another television set or a microwave oven on qualified purchases. Also, watch out for a truly mind-blowing deal at the exhibit as a free side-by-side refrigerator worth over P50,000 is being given away for free with a specific plasma TV purchase. That is for you to find out which one.

Automatic Centre, the pioneer in appliance retailing in the country, made sure that these best buys are presented in specially designed booths and platforms to highlight their particular features and qualities. The exhibit, an oasis of space in this crowded mall, was specifically planned to maximize customer appreciation of the products while optimizing the flow of customers through the booths.

The revitalized Greenhills Shopping Center's Central Mall is the perfect venue to cap off this Plasma Pleasures. With newly opened multi-level parking areas, shopping here has become even more convenient. ro "Automatic Centre is one of the mall's prestige tenants," said Rex Drilon, chief operating officer of Ortigas and Company, Limited Partnership that manages Greenhills Shopping Center. "Ortigas & Co. has been working with the Lims for 35 years."

"There is a mutually profitable commercial and personal relationship with them," he added. "Automatic Centre gives quality products and value for money."



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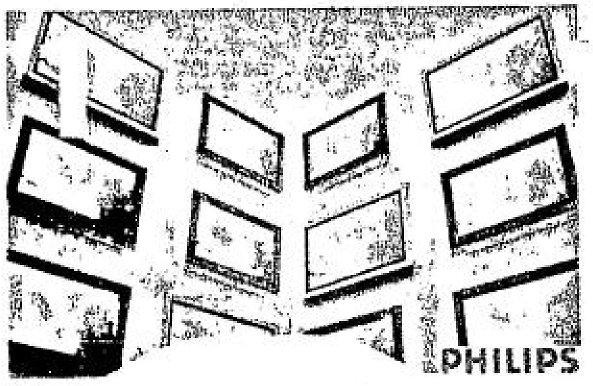
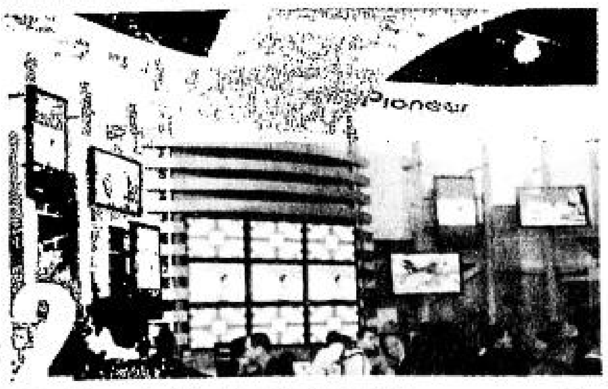
Plasma Pleasures provides glimpse of Consumer Electronics Show in the US

Automatic CENTRE

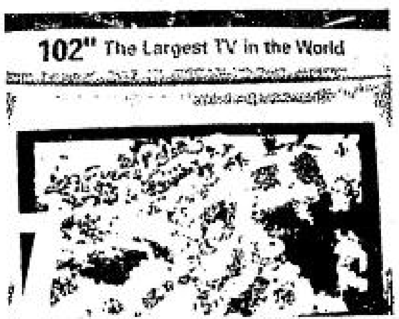




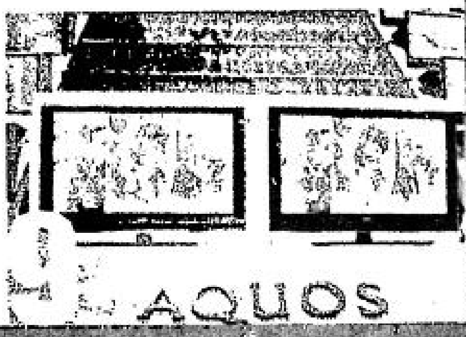
Panasonic
3

HAVING recently attended the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2005 in Las Vegas, Geoffrey Lim says, "the global trend is definitely towards flatter and larger high definition TVs. Electronics manufacturers are trying to out do each other to produce and showcase the largest and flattest screens in the market today. Among the CE highlights were the largest and flattest displays of the following television technologies: (pic 7) Plasma TV - 102 inches; (pic 9) the LCD TV - 65 inches; (pic 6) DLP Projection TV - 70 inches and (pic 4) LCD Projection TV - 70 inches".

70" DLP™ TV
DLP
XAS INSTRUMENTS TECHNOLOGY
6


102" The Largest TV in the World
7

AQUOS
SHARP
8



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View the LG Hurricane Plasma TV Display initially in key dealer outlets:

ABENSON - Alabang, Glorietta 1, Avant-Greenbelt 4, Shangri-la, St Francis, Missouri, North Edsa, Ermita, Walter-Mart Violago (Quezon City)

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SM Appliance Center - Southmall, Makati, Rockwell, Megamall, North Edsa (Basement) and (Main)

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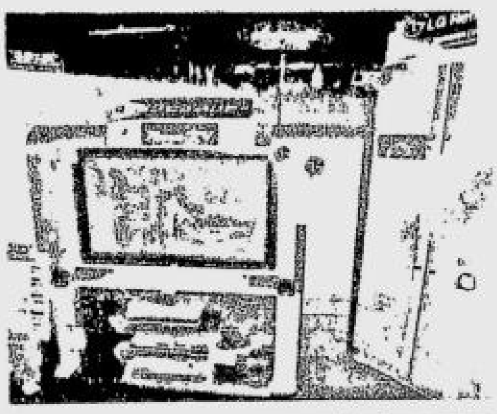
Automatic CENTRE

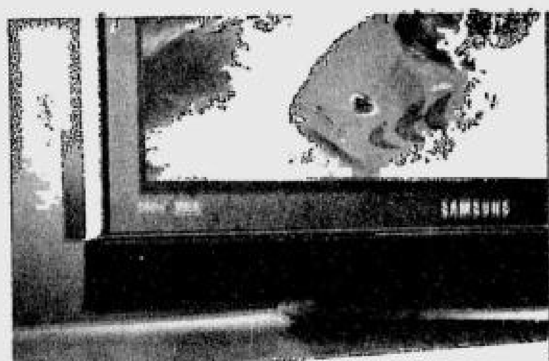
Leading brands launch new products at Plasma Pleasures

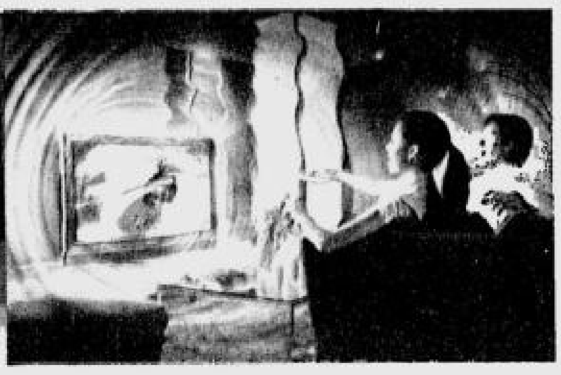
THREE of the leading appliance brands launched their new product offerings at the Plasma Pleasures opening at the Central Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center on Feb. 11.

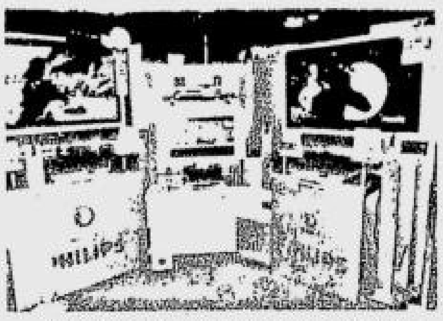


LG Electronics brings you digital reality with its MP-42PX11 Plasma TV. This newest addition to LG's plasma TVs features LG's Enhanced Panel Technology. These technologies enable the MP-42PX11 to display crisper and more detailed images never before seen in other plasma models. LG's plasma panel adopts the new Closed Type Cell Structure that provides improved efficiency and lower power consumption.

The new product also carries LG's revolutionary technology, the XD Engine. The XD Engine is a unique LG Electronics picture enhancement technology used to create digital reality. It has six points, all for enhancing one's viewing experience, namely the advanced image processing Base Coordinator; Real Cinema to avoid distortion; Pixel Works for transforming an analog image into a high resolution HD image; Super Detailer to detect and realize the most proper shade ratio by analyzing the image brightness continuously; Noise Buster to filter out the "noise" of an image with a digital comb filter; and True Color technology to express life-like and natural colors more vividly.

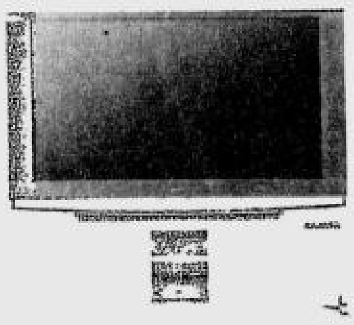






Philips focuses its line of television sets to flat panels. "Its new Plasma Pixel Plus 2 promises to revolutionize television's processing engine," said Angelo Valenton, Philips' general manager. The Philips Plasma Pixel Plus 2 guarantees no glare and excellent picture clarity. Its full active control with light sensor adjusts best possible picture settings. It is also equipped with the latest High Definition LCD WXGA technology with a resolution of 1366 x 768 pixels. Pixel Plus 2's sleek integrated speakers with WOOX technology and dome tweeters would definitely give you a blast plus the virtual Dolby Surround enhances your sound experience.

While Philips' other plasma TVs have been installed with Ambilight which is placed on both sides of the television set. Adjustable Ambilight gives you a relaxing sensorial experience and would sometimes soften the interior of the room. Philips Pixel Plus 2 is available at 32-, 42-, and 50-inch screens.



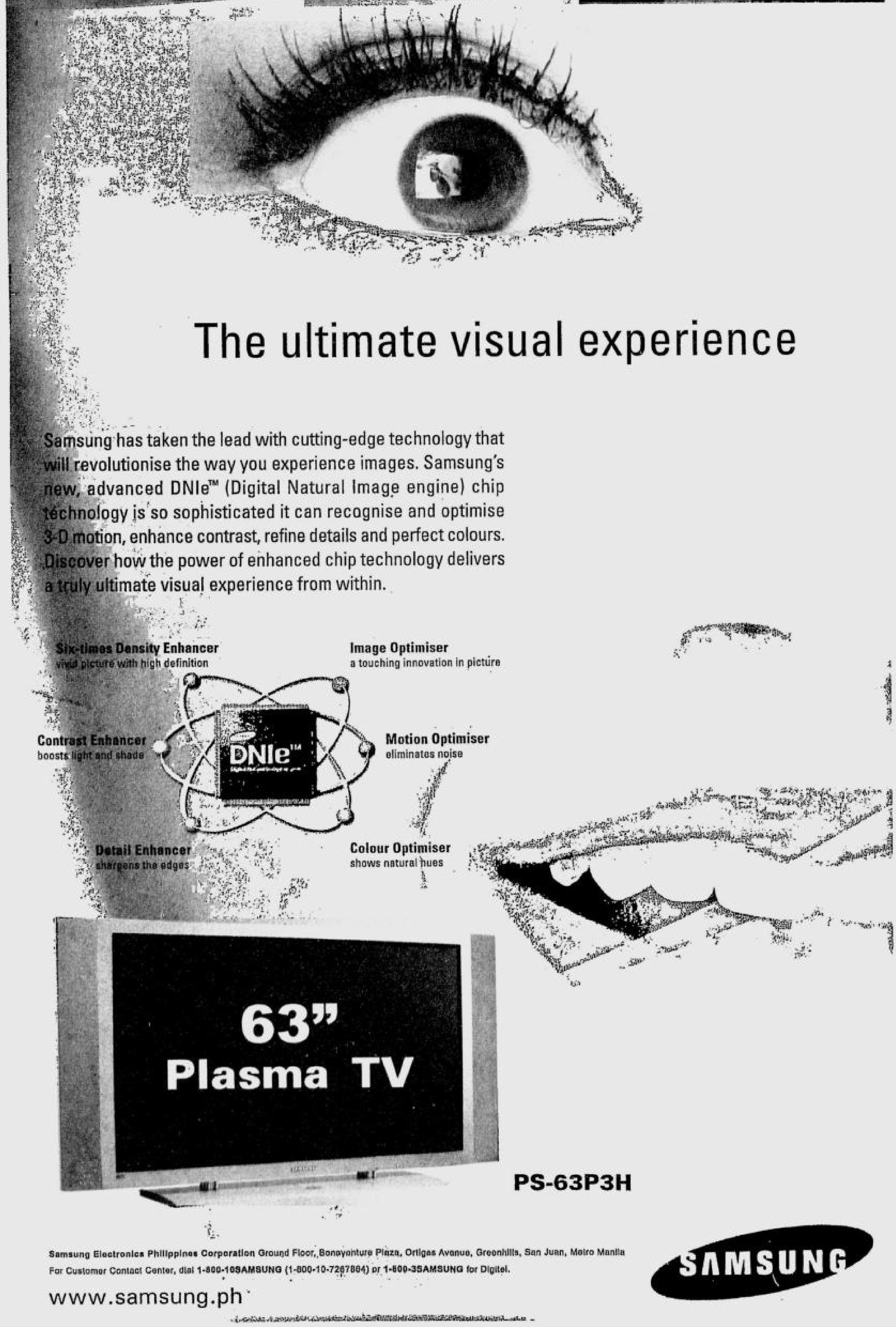
Sony presents its latest and most sophisticated Wega line of TVs: the Grand Wega. Employing the combined ingenuity of cutting-edge mega pixel H-LCD technology and the exclusive Wega engine, Sony's new Grand Wega, a microdisplay rear projection TV, produces impeccable picture quality and brings home a close-to-theatrical experience.

It boasts of giving you a total quality entertainment. Wega engine has a unique intelligent picture enhancement technology. Choose from 42-inch, 50-inch, and 60-inch screens. Grand Wega features a slim line, futuristic design, and perfect viewing from wide angles, truly revolutionary technologies in rear projection televisions.

Wega Engine delivers the most realistic picture of flat panel displays with four clear benefits: less noise, better resolution, more reality, and higher contrast.

The best thing about Sony Grand Wega is its memory stick capability. It can be used in the Handycam, Cybershot digital camera, cellphone P900, and on the Grand Wega. It also allows users to view JPEG images and MPEG-1 movies directly on the TV screen.

Plasma Pleasures is the third leg of digital showcase of Automatic Centre which also features the best in flat panel television sets, and other latest gadgets in the market today



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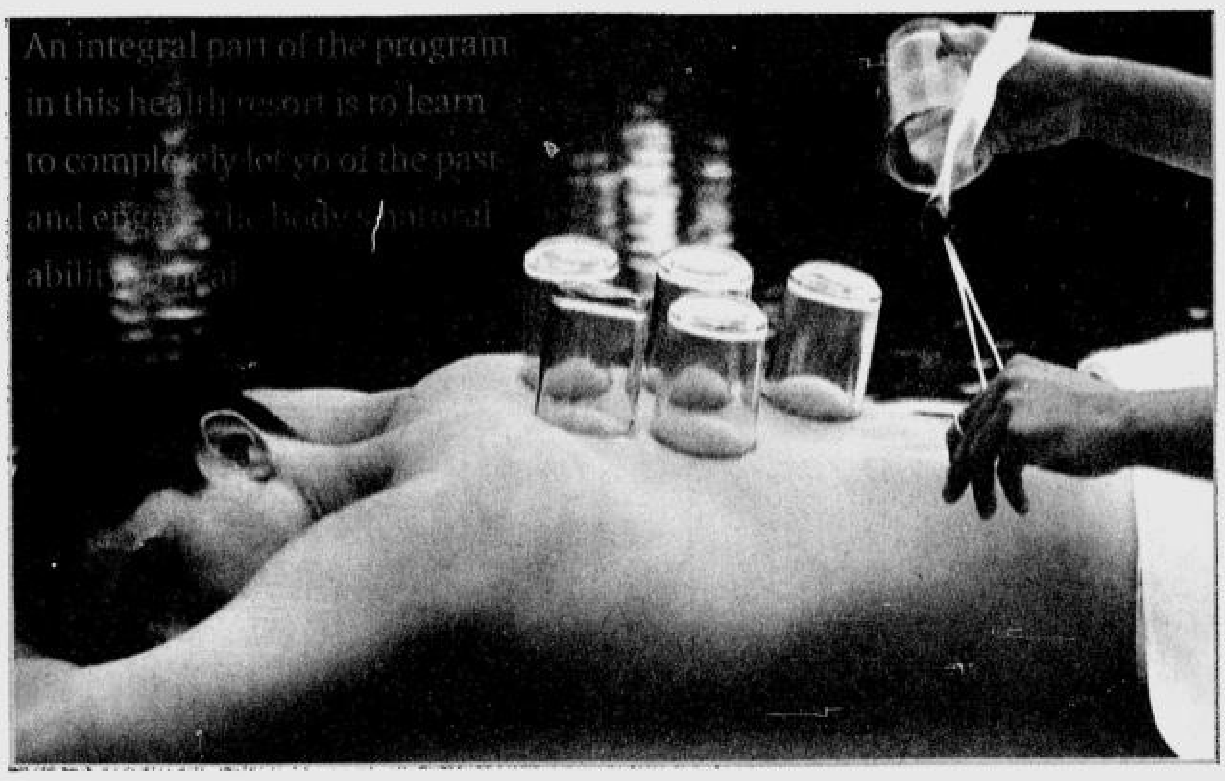
Wake-up call for natural wellness

By Marge C. Enriquez

AT THE FARM in San Benito, Lipa City, the wake-up call is a knock on the door. The waiter delivers the morning green juice, concocted from organic greens, cucumbers and carrot with coconut water, and a robust ginger tea with a zing of lemon, sweetened with honey.

Roosters crow faintly in the background, but it's the bird chorale that ushers in the day. The sky is a suffusion of orange and rose out of dark blue. Shafts of pale sunlight penetrate the trees. Near the lake, tea hens and peacocks strut about. The dewdrops on the grass and the moisture on the earth slowly evaporate to produce a certain pleasurable freshness.

Many visitors, both local and foreign, have described The Farm as paradisiacal. Nine hectares out of the 50 have been developed into a health resort. One of the resort's attractions is the labyrinthine garden, canopied with acacias, coconut trees. Hundreds of ornamental plants line the winding walkways that lead to quiet spaces and wooden decks adjacent to gushing fountains and ponds.



An integral part of the program in this health resort is to learn to completely let go of the past and engage the body's natural ability to heal

A-list guests

Since its opening in 2002, The Farm at San Benito Hippocrates Health Resort has been perceived as a high-end, alternative destination rather than a healing place. A Wellness Package consists of three raw food gourmet meals, medical consultation, a massage and foot scrub, use of the facilities, and participation in the meditation classes, and textures and fitness programs.

Hollywood actor Woody Harrelson has spent 10 days in the resort and attended the living foods seminar. Senator Jamby Madrigal, a long-time vegetarian, took the three-week detoxification program after the stressful campaign to rejuvenate herself. Doris Ho once arrived by helicopter to get a colonic and try out the raw food cuisine.

The list of prominent guests is impressive. It's like the high society crowd transplanted from the ballroom to the boondocks. Even showbiz A-listers such as Piolo Pascual, Judy Ann Santos, Albert Martinez and Donita Rose have taken either the short wellness package or day tours. Senator Ralph Recto, who hails from Batangas, regularly chills out for the day, as does his wife, superstar and Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos.

Testimonies

The public remembers The Farm, but not the Hippocrates Health Resort. There have been testimonies from guests who really benefited from the detoxification program, which runs from five days to five weeks, depending on the patient's condition.

The basic five-day program consists of a transition diet of garden vegetable salads before and after a 72-hour liquid fast. For three days, the guest is given fresh vegetable juices, coconut water, and nutritional supplements throughout the day, coconut oil with molasses, daily coffee enema and colonic irrigation for bowel movement, and light massages. A salt bath cleanses toxins in the skin. Guests can examine the status of their blood system in a monitor during the live blood analysis before and after the program.

Not all the patients are members of the Forbes Park crowd.

In 2003, then six-year-old Ana May Fajardo from Bulacan had been suffering from acute lymphocytic leukemia for three years. Chemotherapy led to complications, such as a central nervous system infection and paralysis. She was being fed through a tube. Fajardo spent five weeks at The Farm for detox. At the end of the therapy, a live blood cell analysis revealed normal cells. The report noted: "The tumor marker Ferritin, indicating leukemia, had dropped down to normal, indicating negative of leukemia [sic]."

R.H., a middle-aged resident from Cavite, weighed a whopping 158 kilos, was hypertensive, and had abnormal blood sugar levels and fungal lesions. Because of his extreme obesity, he was easily exhausted. After a seven-day detox program, which included mental coaching, his blood sugar normalized, the swelling in his legs decreased, and he lost 10 kilos.

In a testimony, he wrote: "I can move fast and walk longer distances. I eat half a cup of rice once a day, white fish only, and vegetables. The fungus in my urogenital area disappeared due to my low blood sugar. My hair and nails are growing back and my sex drive came back. My legs are smaller now and lighter in color due to the new skin. No more hang-ups, no more extra mental baggage."

R.R. is fifty-something, and was diagnosed with severe coronary heart disease. He was advised to undergo multiple vessel angioplasty, but he went instead for natural healing. His program consisted of green vegetable and wheatgrass juices, therapeutic and lymphatic drainage massage, nutritional supplements, and colon hydrotherapy.

Mental coaching contributed to his wellness.

Life coach Cornelis Pols explains: "When a client has a health challenge like R.R. it helps to learn how to completely let go of the past, engage your body's natural ability to heal, to be automatically reminded of a healthy future self, and to be effectively able to detect and get rid of limiting beliefs and install empowering ones."

After his detox program, R.R. stopped complaining of chest pains, and his blood chemistry normalized. He claimed that he owed his recovery to the life coaching, which erased all his doubts on health.

Will to be well

At the orientation, there were two sisters, Jamie and Bambi, who were repeat visitors. "You feel good afterwards and even look forward to it again," Bambi said. Jamie took the five-day detox program last year and lost weight. The scars on her skin lightened. She did not eat meat for six months. This year, she and her sister said they were happy with the results. Jamie lost seven pounds, and Bambi lost 11.5 pounds.

A Nigerian and his wife, both based in Connecticut, came back for a three-day wellness program. Last year, they underwent the five-day detox and waxed enthusiastic over the results. "This place is life changing," he exclaimed. Last year, he complained of high blood sugar and hypertension.

When he returned to the States he followed the diet which required eating a lot of organic foods and green juices. He freed himself from all his medicines for hypertension and lost 12 kilos in one year. His wife's allergies ceased. He said he found meditation helpful in putting a brake on his thoughts.

If the rates seem steep to the average Juan, try the P900-Day Tour. After all, The Farm at San Benito advocates that health is not just for those who can afford it, but for all those who have the will to be well.

Channeling universal laws

ECKARD Rempe, one of the founders of The Farm at San Benito, takes pleasure in his lunch of raw food at the 85/15 Gourmet Cuisine Restaurant.

The string bean *dahl* is prepared with nutritious coconut milk and Indian spices. He eschews the organic brown rice in favor of the *samosa* and compliments chef Felix Schöner, a German like himself. Instead of the traditional flour pastry, the *samosa* shell is made from spiced nuts, sesame seeds and coconut made crunchy under a dehydrator. The stuffing consists of cauliflower, nuts and other vegetables.

Rempe is occasionally interrupted with greetings by German guests, many of whom have prolonged their stay at The Farm. At lunch time, the restaurant is always packed with groups of Filipinos and foreigners on day tours.

After two years, Rempe and his Filipino wife Perla, a co-founder, are seeing the fruits of their efforts. However, he says there's still a lot of work to be done in terms of raising awareness of The Farm as a health resort, not a luxury spa.

Heeding the seers

The Rempes never dreamed of building a resort. From the late '80s to the early '90s, they had Berde Plants, the largest exporter of artificial plants and architectural items in Asia. Among its clients was Euro Disney. But that was before China came along, bringing stiff competition.

"I wanted to retire [after Berde] and certainly didn't want to build a spa because I don't particularly like spas," says Rempe. "I had challenges, like high blood pressure. I questioned why humans had to suffer so much."

Then, he recalls, his accountant, who was very pious person, gave him a book written by an American pastor. He hated the title: "Why do Christians Think They Don't Get Sick?" Since the accountant was someone that he valued, Rempe decided to read a few pages from the start, middle and end, just in case she sought his opinion.

Much to his surprise, he was riveted. "Instinctively, I knew it was God's truth, I knew that it was my path," he says.

Years prior to that, Rempe had met a psychic and a nun who both said he was not listening to his instincts, and therefore not fulfilling his "soul mission," which was to share the knowledge that he was slowly gaining. But disillusioned by the political and economic climate, Rempe did not want to invest in the Philippines.

Then a clairvoyant told him the same thing. He had just returned from a vacation in Bali at the time, but Rempe felt a tremendous urge to return there after three days. In Bali, he met one of Europe's foremost seers, who advised him to build a center offering an alternative lifestyle.

"We wanted to do it very small at first—nuns, meditation groups—low-key, so that everyone could afford it," he explains. "But as we constructed that low-key center, the calling I got was that we would not make a difference in such a way; that the change could only come from the top to the bottom."

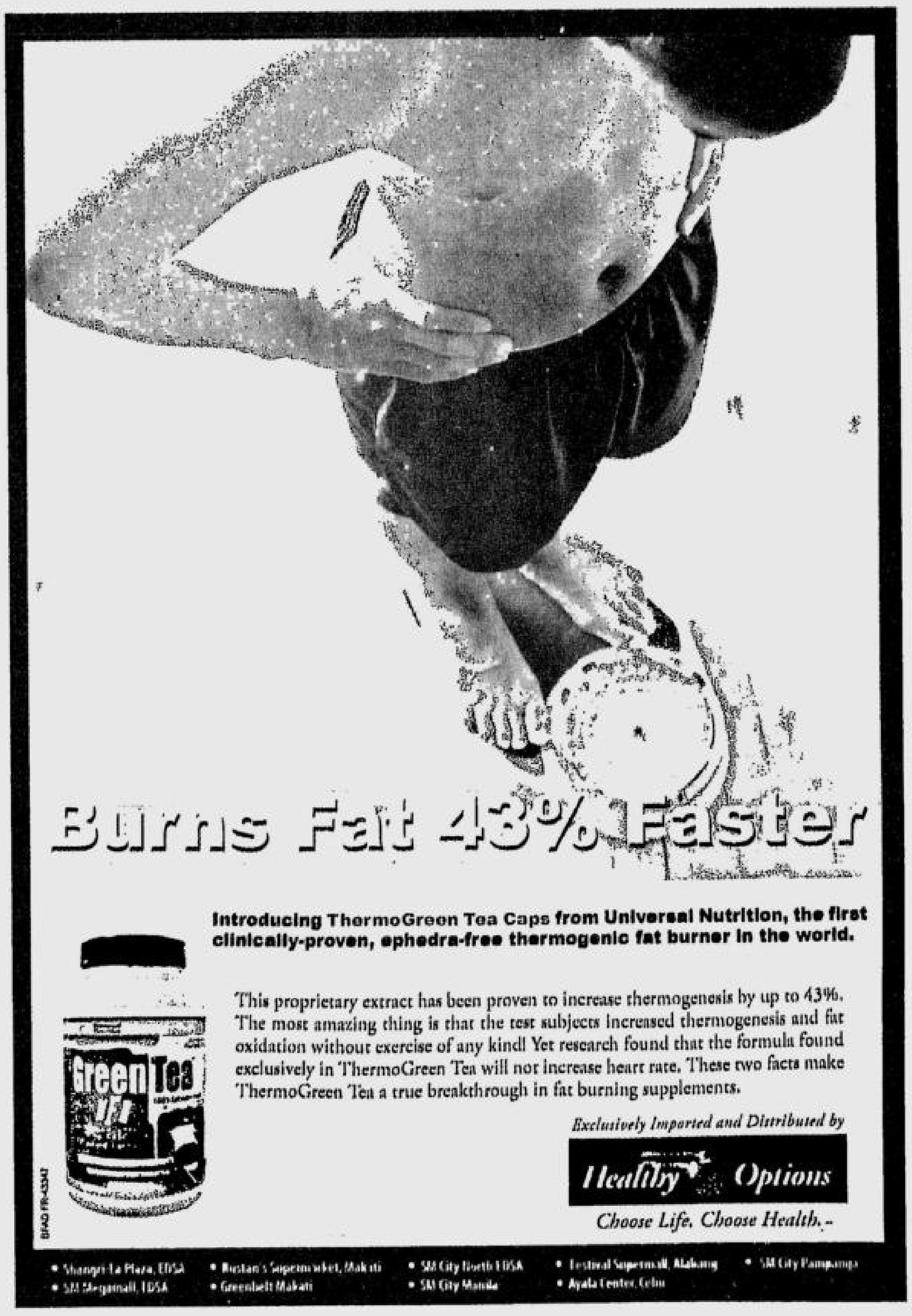
Vision

They changed gears, from the little retreat center to a luxury place. And that, he says, was how it "exploded into phases."

Nine out of the founders' 50 hectares in Lipa City has

CHANNELING/4

THE WINDING path in the garden maze, lined with ornamentals, leads to surprises and meditative corners.



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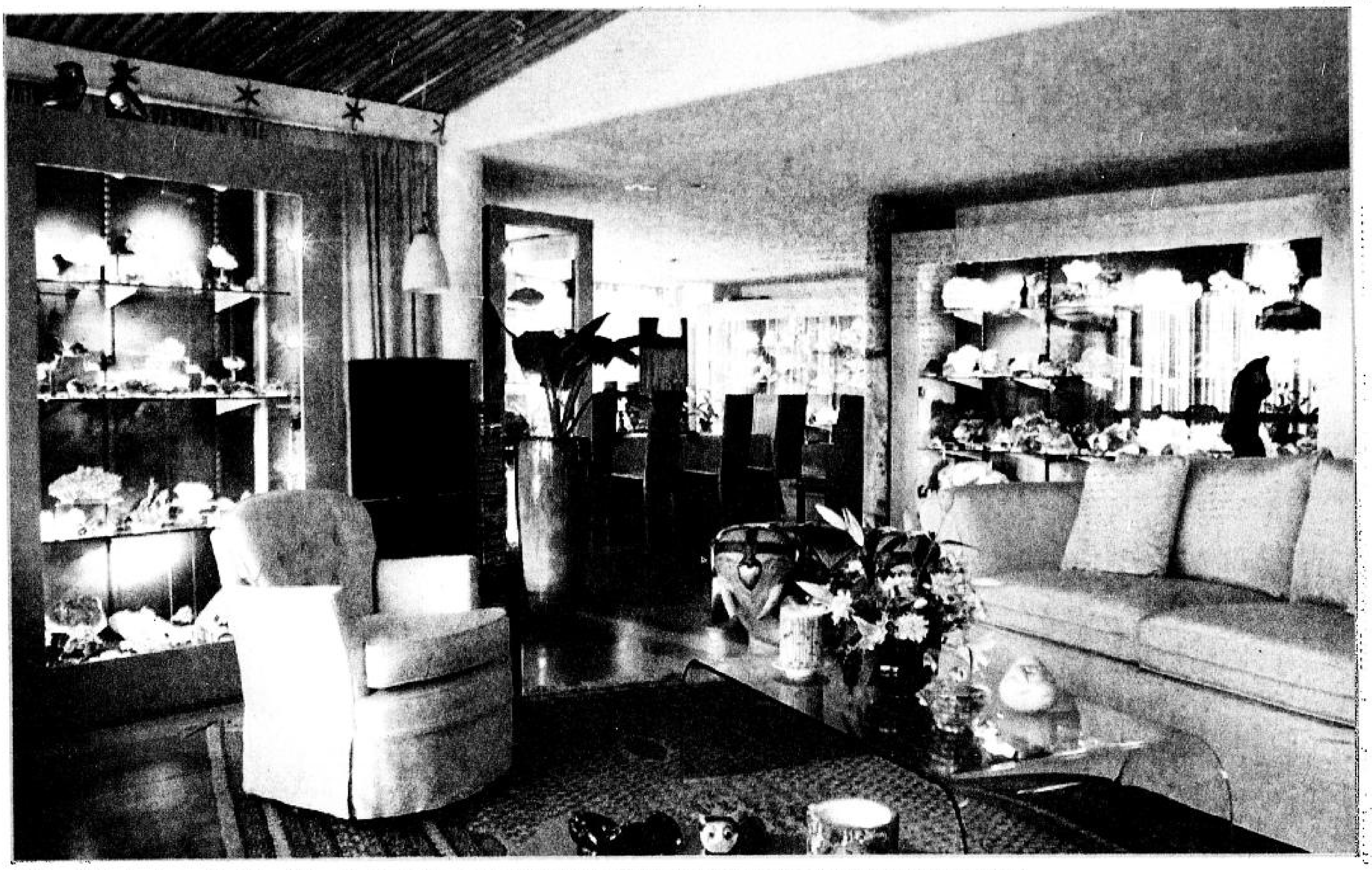


THIS condo is both opulent and simplistic with its multicultural influences and patina. The ceiling has been roughened to complement the owner's rock collection.

House upon the rock

An artist lives here, every wall, nook and cranny whispers

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor
Photos by Wig Tysmans
Assisted by Tonnette Jacinto

HER HOME is built around her collection of stones. "I changed the color of my home to neutral silver-gray to go with my collection," says this intrepid artist who, well into her 80s, stays youthful by continually turning the mundane into the extraordinary with the her creative hands.

Take, for instance, her condo in a quiet enclave of Metro Manila. Like a blank canvas, she combined two adjacent, "stock" units into a dwelling not unlike those found in New Mexico. At the entry hall, low ceilings and walls were given a rounded-out, adobe-like finish while floors were set with crazy-cut slate and lined with pebbles. To finish the illusion, walls are studded with rustic touches, such as a bull's skull and ceramic water jugs that serve to hold flowers.

Laid out per her specifications, our artist's foyer branches out in three distinct directions. Visitors are led away from the private areas, which are off to the left, via two paths that diverge around a central column. It's a quirky location for a guest washroom, but its walls serve more than that purpose, as one half is distinctively painted with patterns and symbols taken from nature. In the artwork, painted foliage, stone and fossil shapes are done in cool, metallic hues.

The mural, as it turns out, is just the appetizer; for upon rounding the corner one comes upon glass cabinets displaying fossils, crystal and sparkling gemstones usually found in caves or mines beneath the earth's surface. Our artist, inspired by their shape and color, picked up these specimens during her travels. Much remain close to their natural state, uncut and unpolished.

One can thus behold a collection of tiger's eye, aventurine, serpentine, red tiger eye, agate, goethite, quartz, tourmaline, obsidian, mangasite, amethyst, chrysocolla, rhodonite and glassite. Carefully lit, their colors are often eye-popping: brilliant red, pink, white, purple, green and blue.

There are also stalagmites, cut at a cross-section to reveal their core; slices of petrified wood, which, under the light, give off a rainbow of colors; fossilized prehistoric invertebrate, their "nautilus" shells preserved in ammonite; and, a so-called desert rose from Mexico, made of gypsum, shaped by the wind.

These finds seem to take a premium over the furnishings, which are quite an eclectic mix. In the living room, for instance, a traditional overstuffed sofa is grouped with a stark, glass coffee table and a small French boudoir seat. The main light fixture is a modern droplight, but a Tiffany lamp hangs in a sitting area nearby. All this is set under a slanted bamboo ceiling not unlike something one would see in a beach hut.

Adding still more visual interest is our artist's own handiwork, evident on the home's walls, doors and cabinets. A lounging lady is painted right on the living room wall; doors are inlaid with stones and found objects to form interesting reliefs; cabinets holding cutlery and china are decorated with African motifs.

Some areas, meanwhile, are strewn with such oddities as a large bell made by an American artisan, animal skin rugs, and sculptures of torsos. This no-rules approach to decorating works as the space echoes so much of the occupant's life and character.

Indeed, all the items seem to resonate with the artist's personal memories. But it is her collection that she seems to hold most dear; this collection that she built up for over thirty years, and that she painstakingly hand-carried over several trips from the US, where they were previously kept. "Some people say that crystals give off energy," our homeowner says, shrugging. "I just love them because they are such beautiful things."

Truly 'A Vegetarian Feast'

A top hotel heeds calls for meatless meals

PUMPKIN cannelloni with mushroom

MARINATED grilled vegetables atop leek salad

UP UNTIL 10 years ago, vegetarians in Manila were considered oddballs within a largely meat-and-rice eating population. With the growing trend in yoga and consciousness-raising activities advocated by a young generation and propelled by media awareness, vegetarianism has become totally acceptable.

In the late 1980s, Mandarin Oriental Manila included vegetarian items in its coffee shop menu. At the time, it was a daring move, considering that the only usual offerings for a vegetarian then were salad, bread and potatoes, unless the chef was given a 24-hour notice to prepare a full gourmet veggie meal.

Capitalizing on the increasing demand for meatless meals, the Captain's Bar at the Mandarin now presents a daily lunch buffet, "A Vegetarian Feast." This has a distinct advantage over the traditional multi-station buffet where diners tend to be overwhelmed by the proliferation of options. With a specialized buffet such as "A Vegetarian Feast," one can savor the flavors of nature without missing meat and fish.

Menu cycles

With six menu cycles, the buffet offers a wide variety of animal-free dishes that caters to raw foodists, vegans, lacto-ovo vegetarians, and even South Beach Dieters. It tries to be everything for everyone, and then some.

Vegetarians that don't eat eggs should avoid the sugar-free cakes, egg salad, the crepe station, mousses and sabayons, whole wheat waffles, soufflés, anything with batter, and the quiche asparagus.

For those who don't eat onions and garlic, check with the chef. There are aspics and desserts that also contain gelatin, which is made from animal products.

The buffet consists of a staple salad bar—a must for a balanced diet—consisting of six varieties of lettuce, cooling cucumber, and sugar beets. This is for people who insist on eating living enzymes.

There is a variety of compound salads and platters with minimal processed foods, such as green bean salad with fried tofu, marinated corn and capsicum, marinated grilled tomatoes, celery salad, marinated grilled pumpkin and onion and eggplant tomato and mozzarella roulade with arugula pesto sauce.

This is recommended for people in the carb-free phase of the South Beach diet.

Weaning friends

Brown rice, already flavorful, is given more zest with orange and raisins. The soups are made from vegetable stock. There is an activity station for making pastas, crepes, *fritatas* and *risottos*.

The best way to wean friends and relations who hate vegetables is to start them on the cream-based dishes, such as baked eggplant with tomato and mozzarella, spinach gratin, spinach and mushroom lasagna, sweetish pumpkin cannelloni with mushrooms and mushroom quiche, or mozzarella arrancini—which is *risotto* with cheese and vegetables rolled into a ball with bread crumbs and then deep fried.

The fruit tart uses a ricotta cheese base instead of cream.

Alongside the classic continental fare are served oriental favorites, such as Thai green eggplant curry, Indian vegetable curry with potatoes, bean curd skin vegetable roll which tastes like duck, couscous with dried fruits and nuts, *paella*, *samosa* (the Indian equivalent of *empanada*), Chinese vegetable fried rice and glass noodles with vegetables in ginger honey dressing.

Juices galore

In sum, the repertoire is large—with rich foods for those who want an epicurean experience, and simple ones for the weight conscious. The choices are narrower for those who don't eat eggs, onions and garlic or dairy.

"We can't make a menu for every possible [discipline]," explains executive chef Thomas Wenger.

What is unusual is the repertoire of juices, excellent for a liquid fast. The concoctions would make most fast-food junkies shudder, and make the health-conscious smile. Among the popular ones are celery and grape, mango coconut milk, and strawberry with balsamic vinegar. There are other exotic shakes, such as Energizing Almond, made from almond milk.

For the adventurous, the Mexican Golden Salsa, made from red and yellow bell peppers with lemon juice, is sweet. Layered Melon Frost is a mixture of honeydew and cantaloupe. Raw foodies will take to the cooling green juice of cucumber spinach or beetroot orange.

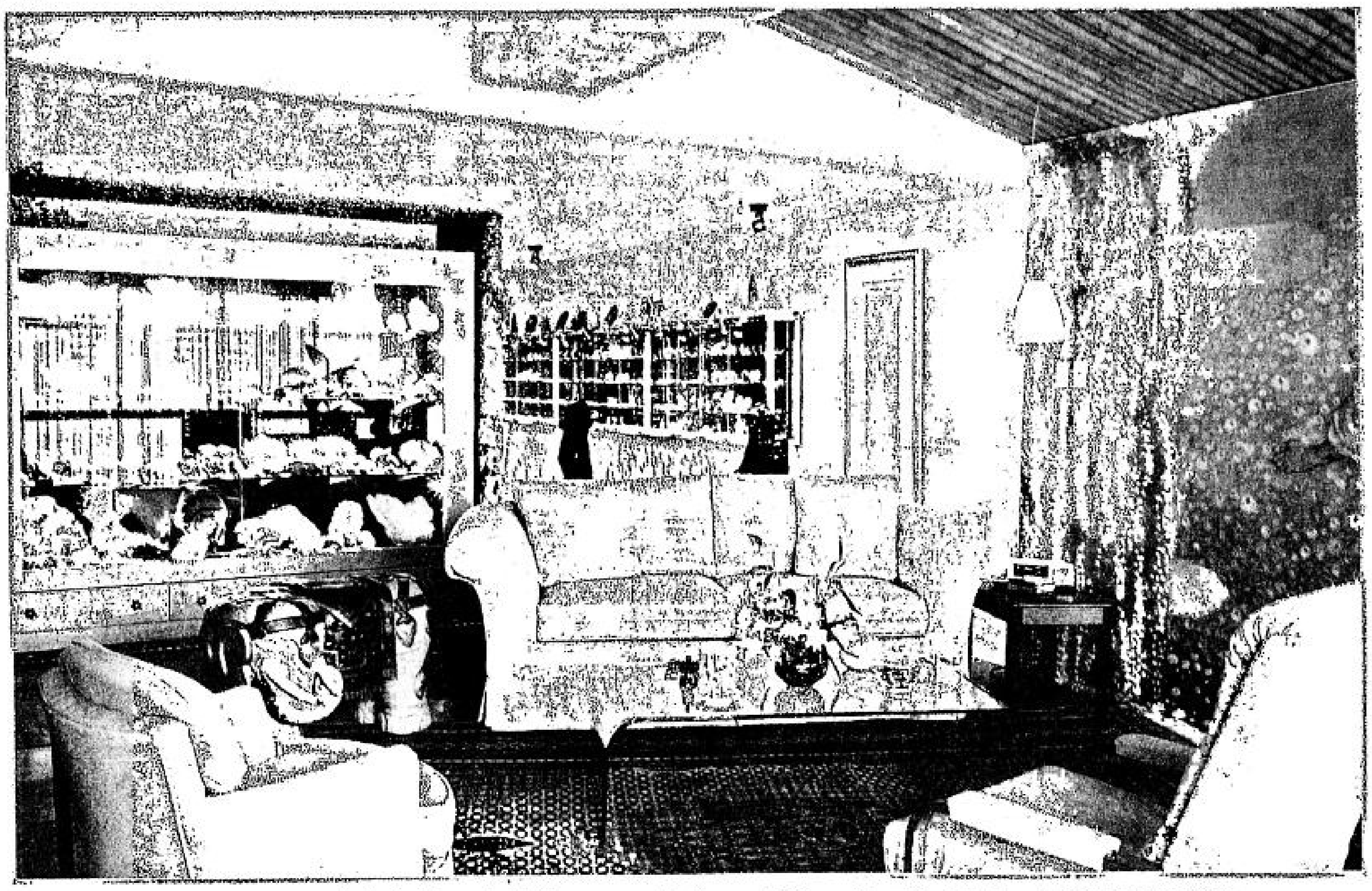
"Beetroot is an acquired taste. Personally I like the fennel and apple juice," says David J. Thomas, food and beverage manager. Fennel seed aids digestion and gives the apple a slight zing.

Good feedback

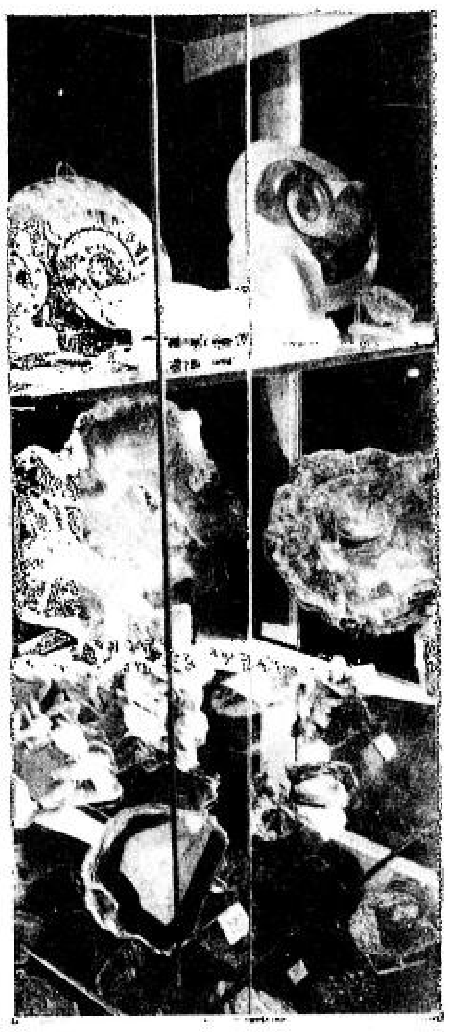
"The healthy drinks are part of the buffet," says Thomas. "It gives people the choice to explore without having to order something extra that they [might] not like," says Thomas.

Not surprisingly the Captain's Bar has lately been busy at lunch hour. The buffet costs P620 plus additional taxes and service charge. Thomas targets 40 to 50 covers daily for the buffet.

"The feedback has been better than I thought," Thomas says. "I'm happy to see a lot of people coming in. I heard from a few that it's a ladies' menu because it's vegetarian. But most people find it extensive and filling."



CLASHING colors and textures are nonchalantly balanced with silver-grey as a binding agent. This condo is whimsically decorated for stunning effect.

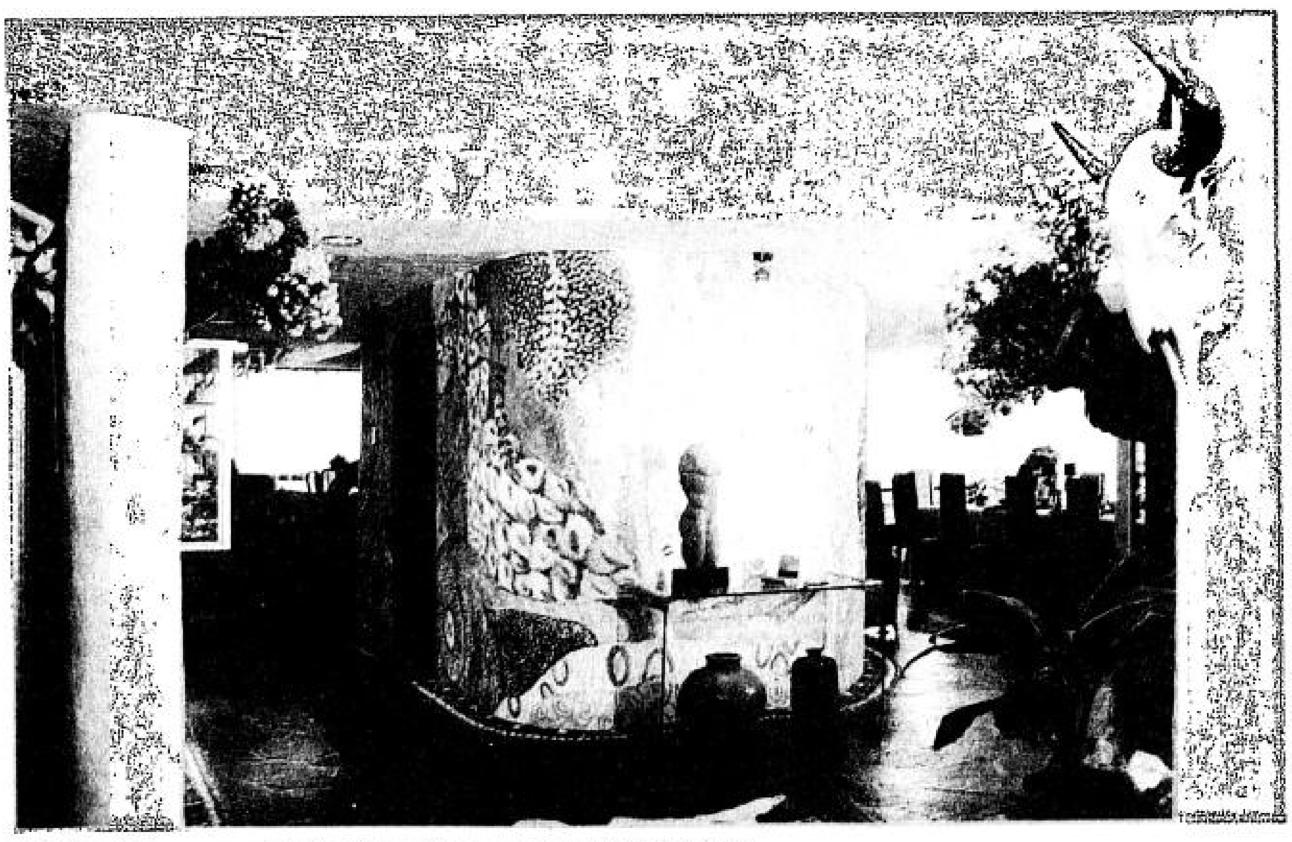


FOSSILS and rare petrified wood from various continents

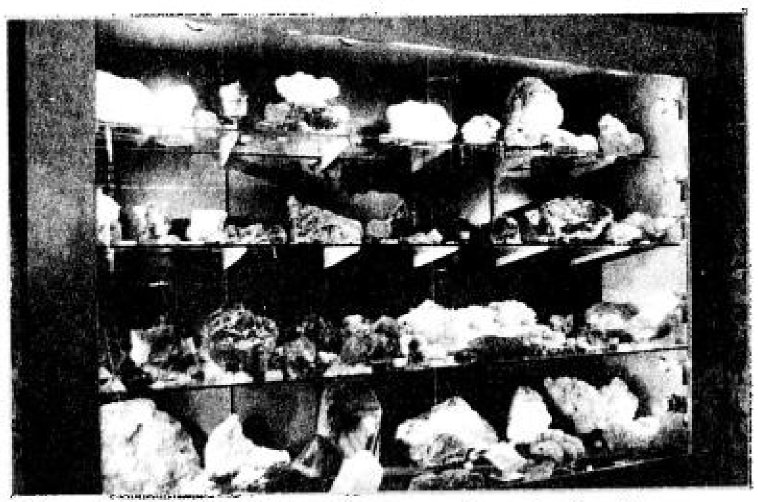
AMERICAN buffalo looms over the foyer.

AFRICAN artifacts collected from the owner's travels

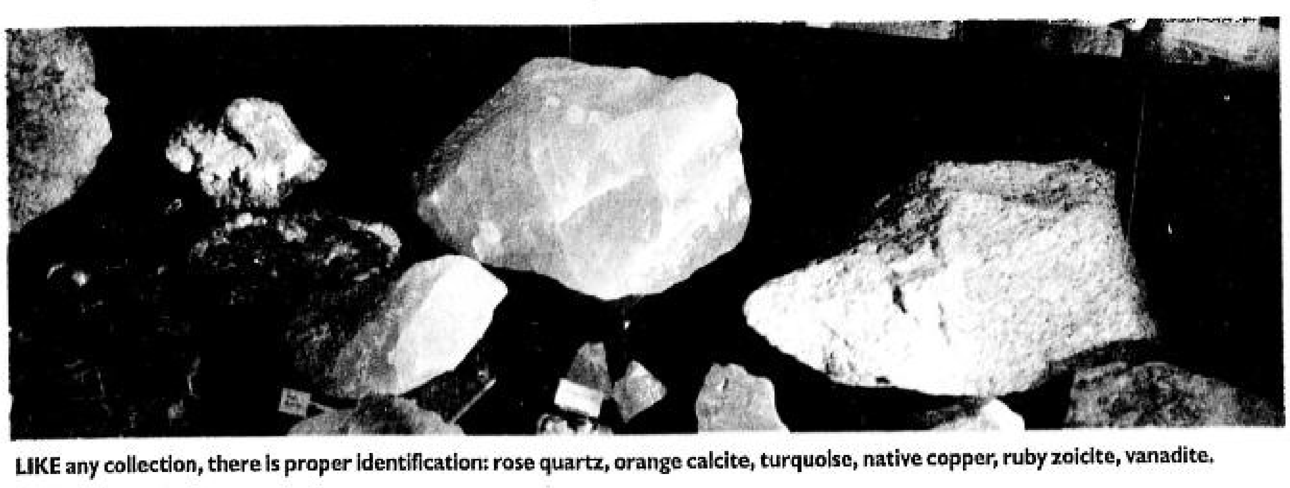
THE DINING room exudes a cozy feel of vivid murals and paint work, stylish leather chairs, an eclectic mix of tableware and atmosphere.



THE POWDER room smack in the middle of the condo is the quirkiest feature.



MINERALS and crystals from different countries have a healing effect.



LIKE any collection, there is proper identification: rose quartz, orange calcite, turquoise, native copper, ruby zoicite, vanadite.

LEATHER mask from Spain looks over the *paella* and fruit juice on the table.

A forgotten workout

By Dr. Martin Camara
Contributor

OUR BODY'S core—essence, center, foundation—the area around our trunk and pelvis is where our center of gravity is located. When we have core stability, the muscles in our pelvis, lower back, hips and abdomen work in harmony. They provide support to our spines for just about any activity.

These core muscles lie deep within the torso. Most are attached to the spine, pelvis and muscles that support the scapula. When these muscles contract, we stabilize the spine, pelvis and shoulders and create a solid base of support. We are then able to generate powerful arm and leg movements.

Training the muscles of the core also corrects postural imbalances that can lead to injuries. The biggest benefit of core training is to develop functional fitness—that is, fitness that is essential to both daily living and recreational activities.

What exactly are the core muscles? They are a group of 29 muscles located in and around our center (trunk and pelvis). The major muscle groups are the erector spinae and multifidus (in the back) and external oblique, transverse abdominal and rectus abdominus (in our front).

Over time, a weak core can make one susceptible to poor posture and injury. For instance, the weaker the core muscles, the more likely one is to experience lower back pain. Working the flexibility and strength of the core muscles can actually compensate for even potentially serious back problems, such as a slipped disc. A program of chiropractic adjustments, physical therapy and acupuncture has helped lessen the inflammation and removed the nerve pressure for patients supposed to undergo surgery. This should immediately be followed by core exercises, such as yoga and Pilates, to stabilize the back. With such a program, patients have been able to live, for the most part, pain-free lives with the ability to engage in leisure sport and exercise in spite of their back conditions.

By strengthening these muscles we will have effectively created a muscular brace or corset to enhance movements while protecting the bones and cartilage from harm.

Learning to identify and properly activate the core muscles is the first step. Then one can practice this technique while learning some basic exercises.

Diaphragmatic breathing. The tendency for most people is to want to hold their breath during core exercise. One should actually breathe freely while doing such exercises.

A good exercise is to lay face up on the floor or any hard surface. Bend the knees slightly and imagine a balloon connected to the navel. With each inhalation, imagine blowing air into the balloon; and with each exhalation, imagine drawing air away from the balloon.

Now place the hands on top of the abdomen and breathe. (If you're breathing correctly, your hands will move with the rise and fall of your abdomen. You may need to practice this several times before it becomes natural.) Once proper breathing technique is mastered, it can be combined with the core exercises.

Coughing as exercise. Abdominal bracing is the main technique used during core exercise training. It refers to the contraction of the abdominal muscles. To correctly brace, pull the navel back in toward the spine. This action primarily recruits transverse abdominus. This is the muscle that contracts with coughing.

Bridging. This works many of the core muscles in combination. Lie on your back with knees bent. Keep the back in a neutral position—not overly arched and not pressed into the floor. Avoid tilting up the hips. Cough to activate your transversus abdominus.

Holding the contraction in the abdominal muscles, raise hips off the floor.

Align the hips with the knees and shoulders. Hold this position for as long as it takes to complete three deep breaths—about five to eight seconds each. Return to starting position and repeat five to eight times. For additional challenge, try alternately extending one knee while maintaining the bridge position.

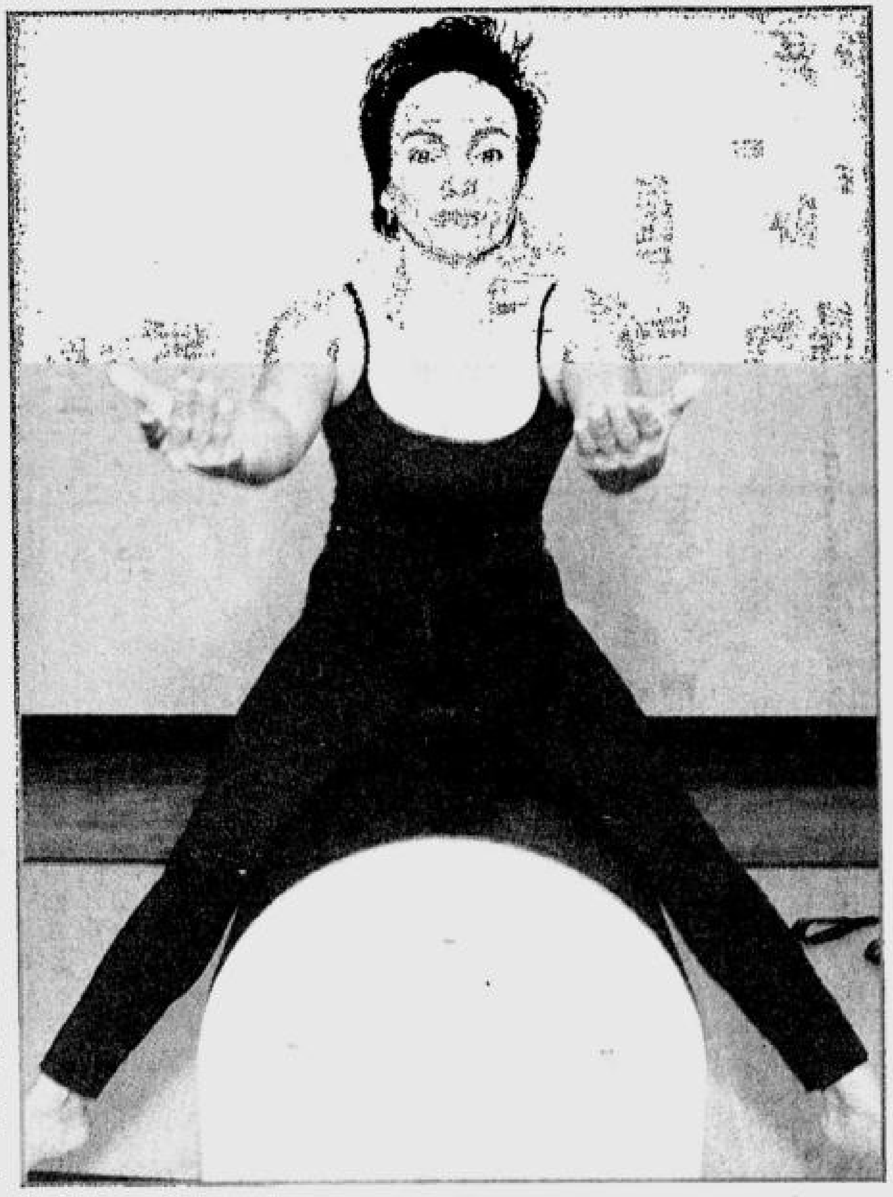
Peeling on and off a floor. This is great for the different joints of the lower and middle back, improving both core strength and spinal flexibility. It starts by sitting tall on the floor with the spine in neutral position. Then while pulling the navel in and exhaling, slowly flex the spine as you roll back towards the floor. Pay particular attention to the breath, and imagine your back peeling on and off the floor with the movements (almost like a modified sit up). It is important to use the core muscles to perform this exercise and not to engage the hip and back muscles. Repeat five to eight times.

Yoga. The poses are all about building core strength. Slow, focused movements require a strong mid-section, and the isometric contractions required for many exercises will add a new form of resistance training to the typical workout. Yoga is also an excellent practice for integrating the mind-body connection, which is beneficial to all human beings.

Pilates. The mat exercises an excellent way to build core strength. Training for flexibility and strength, and breathing in a slow, continuous and controlled motion enhance the posture and improve performance.

And remember: True fitness develops not from individual workouts but rather from regularity and dedicated pursuit over time.

For any questions, email the author at drmartin@intercare-centers.com



VIVIAN Zapanta, Stott Pilates proponent in the Philippines, shows how contraction strengthens the entire core. RUDY ESPERAS

Channeling universal laws

Healing, according to the principle of cause and effect, and The Farm at San Benito

From page 1

been devoted to The Farm. On account of its world-class facilities and healing ambience, the resort has been named Best Retreat in the Spa Asia Crystal Awards. One of its widely praised wonders is the labyrinthine garden.

"This is the only project in the Far East where the natural part of development has gotten as much attention as the infrastructure," says Rempe. "Normally, resort builders concentrate on infrastructure. After that, there is very little money left for the gardens."

In contrast, he says, The Farm's gardens were an integral part of its very concept.

The resort has 135 employees. The ratio of staffers to guestrooms is high, ensuring that guests are given sufficient, quality attention.

"We employ people in the *barrios* where we are located. Tipakan and San Benito are hosting us [here]," says Rempe.

Six months before The Farm's opening, the housekeeping staffers were trained at the Mandarin Oriental. Foreign instructors then came to train the nurses and spa staff.

Says Rempe: "I just knew that we were going to be working, beyond the shadow of a doubt. I got in touch with American and European healers, the best ones in their respective fields who were following the directions of Hippocrates. I recognize a natural or a spiritual law; if you stay within spiritual boundaries, you will never get sick. That's a given. Everything else that we've have been told or conditioned to believe regarding food and medicine is not right. I have put to the test every penny that I've ever earned. That's what we are doing here. This is a huge vision, one that should work, except that not many believe it."

Mixed reactions

"Thorny" is how he feels the road has been so far.

"The world is moving towards a higher level of awareness, except the Philippines. The Philippines is moving the opposite way. There is a certain group of Filipinos that are shifting to a higher gear of awareness and consciousness. [But] the collective consciousness in this country is becoming lower and lower every year, [whereas in] other countries it is steadily rising," he remarks candidly.

The Farm was built primarily for the domestic market, Rempe says. However, since acceptance of the locals was sluggish at best, and the reactions mixed, the resort was opened to the foreign market.

"Many [locals] come here and are served food that they are not accustomed to. They go home and say 'Yes, it's quite nice but... I will never go back because of the food.' So there is this reputation. Yet, we get a lot of wonderful Filipinos who fully embrace what we are doing. A lot of sick people—leukemia, diabetes, cardiovascular problems, cancer—have come here. Our success rate with them has been beyond anybody's dream. Why is this not being recognized?"

He quotes a doctor as saying that people prefer the hell they know to the light or glamour of the unknown. "Man is a creature of habit. To wean people away from the usual is very difficult. Not all people who get sick get have the courage to try something new even if it is very promising. This center was built to give people a choice," explains Rempe.

One particular story left a deep impression on him. The maid of a friend was stricken with cancer. Since she could not afford chemotherapy, she just wanted to return to her home province and die there. Rempe does not believe treating grave diseases should cost a fortune, as society has been conditioned to believe.

"This is part of our mission to help Filipinos who [get sick but] lack the monetary means to get well," Rempe says. "Petrochemical substances can never heal. They may block symptoms, but they don't heal. After five years, the illness comes back."

He points out that they have given pro bono services to the *barrios*. "We've had very poor people here who got the very same treatment that paying guests did. [Curiously] it is the poor who resist us more than the rich. This is very hard for me to understand."

DETOX program consists of coconut water with psyllium husks (as laxative), vegetable and wheatgrass juices. Fresh fruit juices are optional.

Cause and effect

Nonetheless, The Farm at San Benito has been getting positive feedback lately from both locals and foreigners who stayed there for three to five weeks.

Rempe claims The Farm has helped drug dependents, alcoholics, depressed and obese clients. It recently won two more citations from the Spa Asia Crystal Awards—Best in Holistic Treatment, or its combination of a medically supervised detoxification program, life coaching, massages, diets and mild exercise; and Best New Age Activity.

He maintains that healing begins with the spirit. "We simply assist guests in fortifying their whole being. It works all the time. I am working at honest-to-goodness integration. People call me many things, including charlatan. They demand, 'What are you talking about, are you a doctor?' Some even say, 'You should be locked up!' I don't care. We want to be judged by one thing only: results."

Rempe is not saying every single patient will completely heal. He explains: "Their level of well being will increase dramatically. The rest is up to the individual, how far he will take the awareness. The Universe works only in one way—cause and effect. When there's an illness, detox is not enough. We have to look at the [spiritual] cause, if you find that, you will heal."

The Farm at San Benito is located at 119 Brgy. Tipakan, Lipa City, Batangas. Tel. nos. 696-3175, 696-3795 or Manila Sales Office at 751-3498 or 750-8888 loc. 72428.

Whiter than pearls

Who are willing to pay top peso for a flash in their smile?

MALE executives in their mid-30s to 60s believe that the key to youth is whitening, and then Botox. They currently comprise the biggest slice of the market's pie in teeth bleaching. They are willing to pay top peso to have their teeth zapped and whitened. After all, teeth discoloration is also a sign of aging, next to wrinkles and sagging skin.

This is the observation of Dr. Virna Obillos, a cosmetic dentist and consultant for BriteSmile Professional Teeth Whitening. Since 2002, Obillos has introduced some 150 patients to this brand.

Teeth whitening is a bleaching procedure that lightens stains and tarnishes on the tooth enamel. There are many ways to do it. A whitening toothpaste can make the teeth a shade or two lighter in a month. Laser can lighten teeth to five shades in an hour, but it can be painful.

A bleaching tray home kit can lighten teeth by six shades after several weeks of use, but it can be inconvenient. The BriteSmile system can whiten teeth from eight to 15 shades lighter or closer to the teeth's natural color in 80 minutes.

The stains

Obillos has tried all said methods. She says that an imported whitening toothpaste causes sensitivity. A certain laser procedure is more time-consuming and its long-term use could corrode the teeth. Some systems should be used only for certain stains.

There are two kinds of stains, she explains—extrinsic, caused by coffee, colas, red wine and nicotine; and intrinsic, which is organic or genetic. A bleaching tray is effective for removing food stains, but for intrinsic stains, laser treatment is required.

BriteSmile can do away with both kinds of stains, says Obillos.

Before the treatment, the dentist checks if there are abrasions (caused by heavy-handed brushing) that have to be sealed, or fillings that have to be restored, leaking crowns or receding gums that could cause sensitivity during the procedure.

"I don't recommend teeth whitening if patients won't change their crowns or restorations. It's useless, because then the results will be uneven, patchy color, negating the original purpose," she says.

MODEL Melissa Frye recommends teeth whitening especially for those whose job entails communications.

The procedure

The procedure starts with a prophylaxis or dental cleaning to prepare the teeth. The patient wears glasses to protect the eyes from the laser, a mouthpiece called a retractor to keep the mouth open, and a barrier to cover the gums. A masking cream is slathered on the lips to shield them from the rays of the laser.

The patented whitening gel is applied on the teeth which is meanwhile being energized by the blue light that empowers natural teeth whitening elements. The blue light stimulates the gel because it is specially adjusted to react to certain wavelengths of light.

Obillos says BriteSmile's system is safer than most similarly intended procedures. Other brands use 30 to 45 percent hydrogen peroxide (for bleaching) which can penetrate the enamel and make the teeth brittle. BriteSmile uses only 15 percent hydrogen peroxide. Its patented blue light does not emit destructive ultra-violet rays, but instead runs on a gentler spectrum of light that is safe for teeth, gums and tissues. The combination of whitening gel and blue light technology runs for three to four 20-minute cycles.

In two hours, the patient walks out of the clinic flashing white teeth. The results can last for a few months to three yeas, depending on maintenance. "I've had a patient who's vain and insists on doing it twice a year. I have another patient who still has white teeth two years later," says Obillos.

Pro endorsement

The Journal of the American Dental Association (Feb. 2003) reported that that BriteSmile is safe and does not cause sensitivity to light. In terms of results, 88 percent of whitening is retained at a six-month recall. Gums are healthy even after six months.

Despite the bleaching, teeth can be discolored again if the patient continues the habits of drinking coffee or tea, smoking, and carelessness in oral hygiene.

"Honestly, (with BriteSmile) the teeth color can retract but only a few shades darker. I've seen cases where the bleaching was practically undone and the teeth went back to their original stage of discoloration. I have not heard such complaints from my patients although the whiteness does go down by as much as six shades."

Dr. Obillos advises patients be careful about food intake for 72 hours after the bleaching. "Even 24 hours after the procedure, the pellicles in the teeth are not stable. The patient should not eat colored food."

To maintain the whiteness, BriteSmile has home-use products such as Professional Whitening Toothpaste, with a whitening agent, baking soda and fluoride; an alcohol-free mouth rinse, sugar-free whitening gum, and an electronic toothbrush that removes 80 percent of coffee, tea and tobacco stains, and removes plaque better than the manual brushing. A marker pen makes the teeth two to four shades lighter in two weeks.

Marge C. Enriquez

For more information about BriteSmile, please call 752-8740 or 0917-5446410 or log on to www.britesmile.com.ph.

E-mail: pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2005 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 2, NUMBER 9

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JAPANESE Invasion

By Mae Astrid Tobias
Contributor

YOU may not know the names Nobutaka Nishizawa and Osamu Kasai but I'm sure that you've heard of the animes they directed. You enjoyed the hardcourt antics of Hanamichi of "Slam Dunk" thanks to Mr. Nishizawa, while Goku, Gohan, and Goten had fabulous adventures in the "Dragon Ball GT" series thanks to Mr. Kasai.

Local content,
マジンガーZ

NOBUTAKA Nishizawa and Osamu Kasai

RUDY ESPERAS

Anime refers to Japanese animation while **manga** literally means comic book in English.

The two Japanese anime directors were in the Philippines this month as part of the 2nd Philippine Animation Festival and as special guests in the Animexplosion 2005 at the SM Megatrade Hall.

Mr. Nishizawa wanted to become a movie director while Mr. Kasai was already making commercials part-time when they found out that TOEI Animation was looking for directors. They both applied, took some tests and were accepted.

Mr. Kasai has always loved animation so when he got the job, it was like a dream come true. Mr. Nishizawa was able to create with TOEI some of his favorite animation like "Shonan Bakusozoku" and "Galaxy Express 999."

As directors, Mr. Nishizawa and Mr. Kasai do not create the characters in their shows. The characters are originally from manga, and their job is to think of how to give life to them. According to Mr. Kasai, he really enjoys giving life to the world created by Akira Toriyama because it has everything: humans, monsters, aliens—even tiny stones that are alive. The mark of true animation, he said, is when you successfully give life to things, which is not always possible in movies with live action.

Mr. Nishizawa said that he is very happy that anime is popular in the Philippines because when children watch anime, they can be free to imagine anything that they wish they can do. What doesn't happen in real life is possible in anime. Mr. Nishizawa added that one of the good effects anime has on children is that it allows them to have big dreams and explore many different fields.

Clearly, their passion for their work keeps them going. According to Mr. Kasai, people express themselves in different ways –musicians through music, actors through acting, singers through singing. In his case, animation became his way of expressing himself. When he was a young boy, there was no television and he only enjoyed himself through books and music. The first time he saw a cartoon, he was blown away by the experience. He couldn't explain it but the impact was so huge that he wanted to create the same feeling for other children.

Both directors are proud of the fact that Japan will be celebrating 50 years of animation next year. It has been half a century since they first saw Disney cartoons and thought, if they can do it, why can't we?

Meet Luffy the Pirate!

WWW.ABSOLUTEANIME.COM

HAVE you ever watched the Tagalog version and the English version of the same anime? Different voice actors give the same character a different personality.

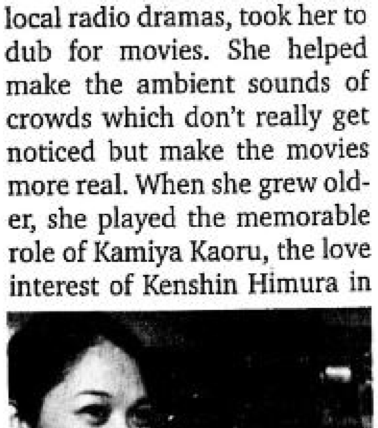
Candice Arellano is one veteran voice dubber on the local scene. It all started when her mom, a pioneer voice actor for local radio dramas, took her to dub for movies. She helped make the ambient sounds of crowds which don't really get noticed but make the movies more real. When she grew older, she played the memorable role of Kamiya Kaoru, the love interest of Kenshin Himura in "Samurai X."

Now, aside from voicing for telenovelas, she plays the role of pirate Monkey D. Luffy, in "One Piece," an anime show which airs on GMA-7. She says that it's standard practice to get a girl to play the part of a little boy because men's voices are too deep.

To be able to do voices, Candice says she has to see the character she's playing. She can't do Luffy's voice outside the studio.

Before the introduction of multi-track recording technology for telenovelas and anime around 2000, a voice actor spent long hours in the studio. All the voice actors would be in a room recording a whole show together, each waiting for his turn to say his lines in front of the mic. Until all your lines were taped, you were stuck there. These days a dubber could walk into the studio, record all her lines in about thirty minutes, and then go home without having to wait for everyone else.

Candice describes her work as "Fun! *Hindi ko maiwanan.*"*—Dexter Lira*



CANDICE checks out manga at a comic shop. RUDY ESPERAS

Did you know?
The Japanese term for voice actor is seiyuu (derived from English "say you").

Oh Japan!

By Zak Yuson
Contributor

FOR all the young ones and young once, here is JUNIOR INQUIRER's reminiscing and reckoning of everything Japanese!

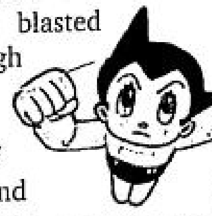
The '70s

Japanese culture slowly crept up on our shores with the very first Japanese video arcade at Ali Mall, Cubao. Back then, this was *the* place to bring your friends for a wild time of Pong and other Japanese video games!

VOLTES V

Early '80s

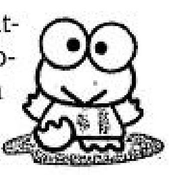
"Voltes V"! Five teens and their machines blasted their way through the exosphere providing numerous hours of sci-fi fantasy and entertainment until then President Marcos pulled the plug and replaced it with "Astroboy."



ASTROBOY

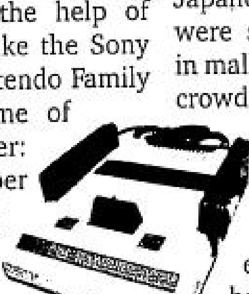
Along with "Voltes V" came the dawn of anime on Philippine TV: "Daimos," "Mazinger Z," "Danguard Ace," "Macross," "Flying House" and "Super Book". All thanks to the wonders of dubbing!

This was also the time when Hello Kitty first came purring to the Philippines! Later on, Kerokerokeroppi leaped in while Doraemon sneaked in with his many gadgets!



Late '80s

Where would the MTV generation be without the help of Japanese gadgets like the Sony Walkman? The Nintendo Family Computer had some of the best games ever: Mario Brothers, Super Mario Brothers, Contra, Legend of Kage, and Goonies.



Late afternoon TV viewers got to see a glimpse of Japanese life through "Japan Video Topics." You could learn ikebana, origami or pottery from the documentaries which aired on Channel 9.

Late '80s - Early '90s

If cartoons weren't enough, there was always live action masked men, like Bioman and Maskman.

But *the* live action hero was Shaider! He could always be trusted to travel through the time space warp (*Ngayon din!*) and blast the evil monster away with his gun/ship Babylos!

BIOMAN

Early '90s - Mid '90s

The Family Computer gave way to the more hi-tech Nintendo Entertainment System and the SNES or Super FamilyCom. Japanese arcades were still popular in malls because of crowd favorites Street Fighter and Double Dragon 2.

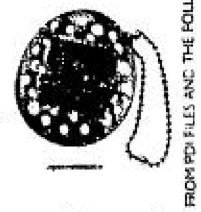
ANNIE

Anime evolved as well. Suddenly, everyone wanted to know what would happen to Prince Cedie and Princess Sarah.

But the biggest thing to hit the country from Japan during the early '90s was the crazy contest that turned otherwise timid participants into running clowns just to reach "Takeshi's Castle". The game show was dubbed and hosted by actors Anjo Yllana and Smokey Manaloto who laughed as we did when contestants jumped into black holes with monsters inside!

Late '90s - 2000

Although we never heard it before, Japanese pop music or J-pop made us want to dance and sing even if we didn't understand the words. There was Pizzicato 5's catchy



PHOTOS FROM PDI FILES AND THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES

Oh Japan!/ p. 7

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2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

Reminiscing

MANY bad things happened under the Japanese occupation during the Second World War.

Everyone had to bow before the Japanese soldiers. Filipino women, whose little pinky no suitor could touch, underwent the horrors of becoming "comfort women." Thousands of captured Filipino and American soldiers died in the Bataan Death March.

Then, the USA dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. It seemed another sun came down to earth and killed thousands of people. Japan then surrendered.

Today, the Japanese remember the effects of the nuclear bomb. The survivors known as *hibakusha* call for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Today, Japan gives help to countries in need: a grant for a street children's shelter, aid for tsunami victims, scholarships to their universities.

Today, we enjoy anime, manga, origami, and all the yummy Japanese food. We've come a long way; but we only know how far we've come when we look back every now and then to remember.

Be heard!

What do you think of Junior Inquirer? Write us your opinions or requests, and make this paper better than ever! Email ji@inquirer.com.ph or write us at P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City.

JOURNAL
PAGES

When your Mom starts liking Japanese songs

By Vida Cruz
Miriam College Grade School
Quezon City

MOM and I do not agree on many things. Like what I wear, how I do my hair, what I watch, what music I listen to, which high school I want to enter, what books I read, etcetera.

You can just imagine, but I don't want her to sound like a dictator or anything because this is what my dad jokes about—apart from the Lord of the Wedding Ring.

Imagine my shock when she actually liked something I liked.

We were in the car and I played a CD of Japanese songs my dad burned for us for the first time.

My sister requested for track 4 and a minute into the 5-minute song, my mom said, "You know, these songs sound really good. It's just that I can't understand what they're saying."

At the back of my mind, I felt triumphant. Maybe now, she wouldn't complain about the other songs. "Ichibiyou no Rifurain" made my point for me in that one minute when before, I always had to waste 10 minutes of my breath trying to explain.

What I really should've used my mental energy for was the realization that she actually liked the song. I am not joking. Want proof? Here are some:

- While "Ichibiyou" was playing, Dad started talking. Mom shushed him.
- He made another attempt by trying to lower the volume. Mom slapped his hand away.
- I always sit in the passenger seat when it's just mom, my sister and me, so that makes me the DJ. I usually pass over "Ichibiyou" now because there are many other songs I like listening to and we don't have enough time to hear them all. So when I passed over it again, not only did my sister whine, but mom objected as well! Must do what my mother says... *sigh*
- Mom tried "humming" to it... as in the kind where you want to sing but do not know the words. The language was butchered and I felt insulted.
- She taps the steering wheel to the beat.
- She admitted that she liked it!

So there. At least, we agree on that one thing. Why am I telling you this? It is because I believe that someday, we will agree on something more than that Japanese song; that we will also be on the same wavelength on other things.

My Vacation in Palawan

Kalyn Rae A. Yogyog
Montessori Fort Bonifacio
Taguig

IT was very dark and cold. Suddenly, I heard the sound of many wings. There were bats above, and monkeys and snakes on the ground. We were touring the famous underground river. I had never been so scared!

I was then spending my vacation in Palawan, because we visited my Papa who was assigned there. I was happy for the chance to stay with him for a bit. He was away in Iraq for a long time. Mama said he was operations officer of our Philippine volunteers.

On Snake Island, Mama, Papa, Lola Madelon (visiting from California), and I went swimming. We saw a curious fish. It is named "puffer," because it blows itself up like a balloon when trying to frighten away those who want to eat it.

I went back home, happy that I was able to see some of the wonders of our country.

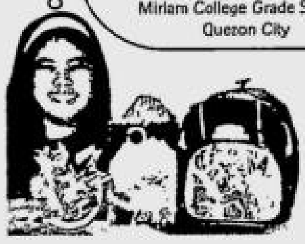
Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts and send them to JI. Who knows, you just might get published!

Think Out Loud!

What's your Japanese thang?

Compiled by Eline Santos

"Anime. 'Yu-gi-oh!' because I have a crush on someone there. I love Yami Yugi, he's so cool!"
—**Ma. Alyyana Antiporda**, Grade 5, Miriam College Grade School, Quezon City



"'Gundam Seed' and 'Gundam Wing' because it's exciting. Also 'Hunter X Hunter.'"
— **Louie Base**, Grade 6, Olongapo Adventist Elementary School, Olongapo

"Anime, obviously. But I find some of their instruments quite interesting. They have really nice paper houses and bonsai gardens."
—**Katharine Junginger**, Grade 7, Miriam College Grade School, Quezon City

"The horror movies. I get to know what ghosts look like."
—**Gerald Base**, Grade 3, Olongapo Adventist Elementary School, Olongapo

"'Slam Dunk' because the characters play basketball really well."
—**John Paul Lobos**, Grade 6, Sampaguita Elementary School, Caloocan

"Beyblade na may control."
—**Earlmond Ross Lee**, Grade 4, SPED Center for the Gifted, Olongapo

"Cartoon characters in 'Slam Dunk.' Wala lang, because it's basketball."
—**Jett Stanley Osian**, Grade 6, Caybiga Elementary School, Caloocan

"I like everything! In anime, 'Gundam Wing.' It's the best anime ever! I like the story very much —and the characters."
—**AC dela Cruz**, Grade 5, Miriam College Grade School, Quezon City

"Anime din. I like watching Card Captor Sakura."
—**Chona Gajo**, Grade 6, Sampaguita Elementary School, Caloocan

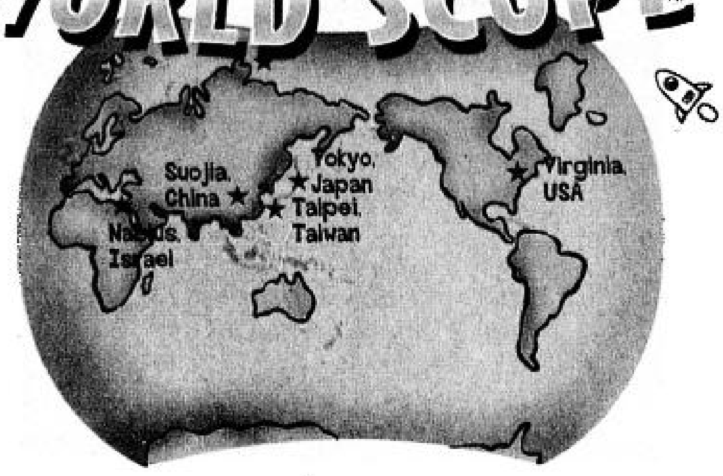
Of all the Japanese crafts, it's origami I like best. Actually, of ALL the crafts I know, it's origami I like best! I like it for the way it allows me to fold paper into all sorts of almost impossible shapes! Origami is also the one thing that made me quite popular in school. It happened one day as I was doing origami during a break in class, using some scratch paper. Pretty soon, everyone was asking me to teach them to do it. Now, whenever someone shouts "Free paper, anyone?", everyone, and I mean, EVERYONE, would shout, 'Me!!'"
—**Joachim Valdes**, 11, Grade 4, Manila Waldorf School

And what do some Japanese kids like about living in the Philippines?

"I like year-round swimming on the beach and banana cue."
—**Yuki Tomii**, 7 years old

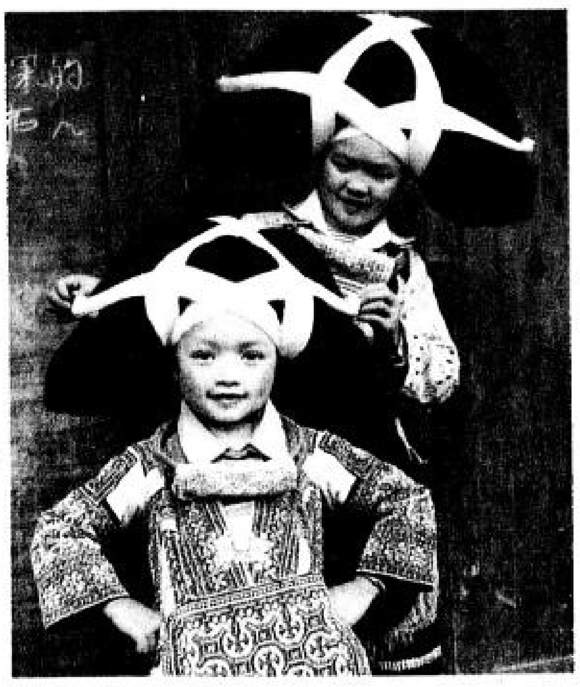
"I have more friends here than in Japan."
—**Haruka Fujita**, Grade 2, International School Manila

WORLD SCOPE



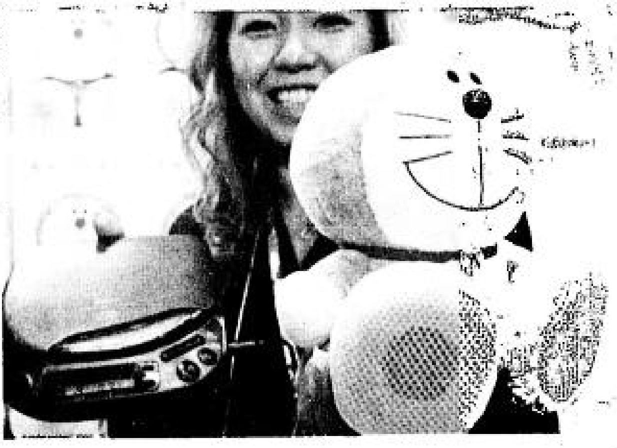
Mobile money

INSTEAD of cards, use your mobile phone to pay for the train. A project of East Japan Railway Co., NTT DoCoMo Inc. and Sony Corp., the cell phone is embedded with a computer chip that allows commuters to go through station gates. *AP*



Hairy head gear

IN preparation for the Spring Flower festival, a Chinese girl from the Longjia Miao tribe helps her younger sister put the final touch on her head gear which is woven from hairs of generations of women in their families. *AFP*



All dressed up

DRESSED in fancy costumes, enthusiasts arrive at the 11th annual Katsucon, an anime and manga convention held in Virginia. *AFP*

A Musical Cat

POPULAR cartoon character Doraemon, a futuristic robot cat, plays it loud at the Tokyo International Gift Show. His paws are the speakers for a CD player and video game consoles with a built-in amplifier. *AP*

Friendship Angels

ELEMENTARY school students from Taiwan and China pose for a photo at Tungmen Elementary School in Taipei. Some 50 Chinese students, also known as the Peace Building Angels from the Zhejiang province, come to Taiwan for a nine-day visit. *AFP*

Reunited with family

A RELEASED Palestinian prisoner, Ameera Abu Thraa, is kissed by her mother in the West Bank city of Nablus. Israel freed 500 Palestinian prisoners in the largest mass release for nearly a decade, a gesture meant to bolster a ceasefire deal with new Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. *Reuters*

Yehey for cleaner air!

ACTIVIST "polar bears" shout to the public in the Ginza shopping district of Tokyo to celebrate the Kyoto Protocol. The landmark treaty requiring cuts in gas emissions causing global warming took effect on Feb. 16 with the support of 141 nations. *AFP*

Li'l Hands CLUB

COLOR YOUR SUMMER WITH LI'L HANDS

Everyone looks forward to summer, especially the kids. For them, it is time to take a school break, hang out at a friend's house on weekdays, or spend the weekend at the beach. At Li'l Hands Club, it is also time to keep the creative juices flowing.

Li'l Hands Club is inviting children 15 years old and below for a Fun Day on March 5, 2005 (12NN onwards) at the Insular Life's Employees Lounge, 12F Insular Life Building in Makati City.

Existing Li'l Hands Club members get free entrance to this afternoon of treats and surprises, among others:

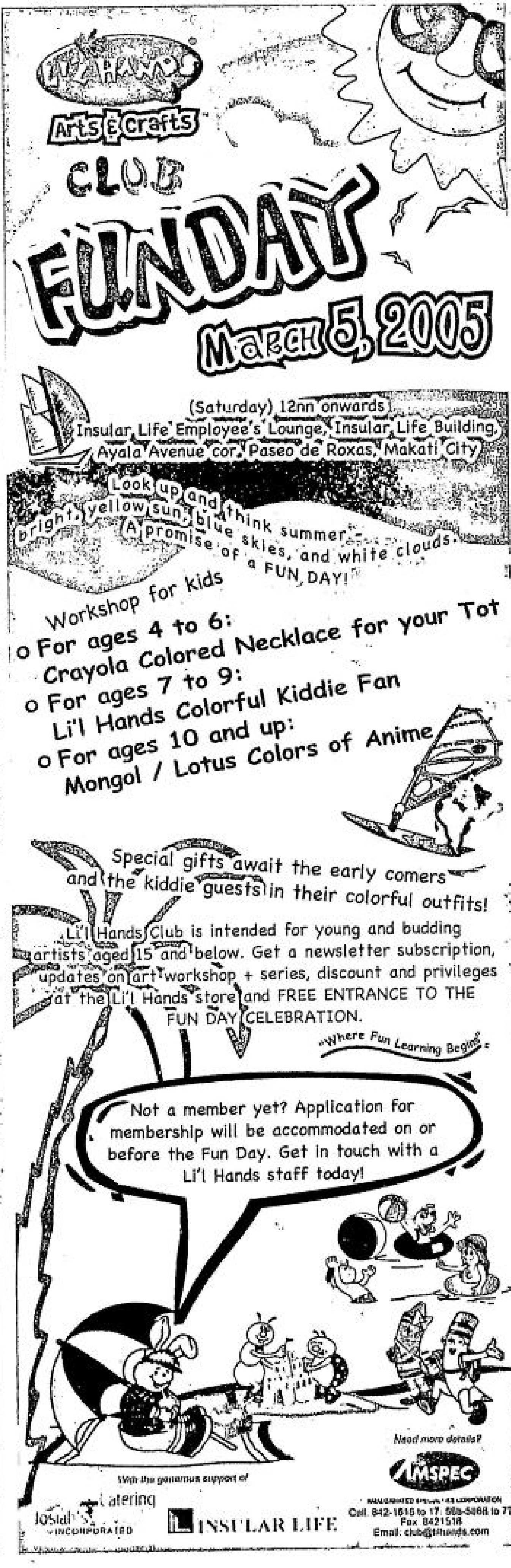
Mongol/Lotus COLORS of Anime, Crayola COLORed Necklace for your Tot, Li'l Hands COLORful Kiddie Fan, Each COLOR tells a story, and Gimme COLOR games

PLUS
Freebies for the early birds, gifts for the kiddie guests in the most COLORful outfits, mascot appearance by Mr. Mongol, Ms Crayola, and Li'l Hands' Douglas the Dog

To participate, non-members need not worry because application for membership will be accommodated prior to the event and on the event itself.

To register or get more information, please call 568-5868 or 842-1515 or email Club@lilhands.com

Li'l Hands Club is a community of young and budding artists aged 15 years and below. Members enjoy free newsletter subscription, updates on art workshops, and discount at the Li'l Hands store among other benefits.


Li'l Hands Arts & Crafts CLUB
FUNDAY
MARCH 5, 2005
(Saturday) 12nn onwards
Insular Life Employee's Lounge, Insular Life Building,
Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Look up and think summer— bright, yellow sun, blue skies, and white clouds. A promise of a FUN DAY!
Workshop for kids
o For ages 4 to 6:
Crayola Colored Necklace for your Tot
o For ages 7 to 9:
Li'l Hands Colorful Kiddie Fan
o For ages 10 and up:
Mongol / Lotus Colors of Anime
Special gifts await the early comers and the kiddie guests in their colorful outfits!
Li'l Hands Club is intended for young and budding artists aged 15 and below. Get a newsletter subscription, updates on art workshop + series, discount and privileges at the Li'l Hands store and FREE ENTRANCE TO THE FUN DAY CELEBRATION.
"Where Fun Learning Begins"
Not a member yet? Application for membership will be accommodated on or before the Fun Day. Get in touch with a Li'l Hands staff today!
With the generous support of
Josiah's Catering Incorporated
INSULAR LIFE
Need more details?
AMSPEC
Call 842-1515 to 17; 568-5868 to 77
Fax 8421518
Email: club@lilhands.com

FOR or BY KIDS

Illustrations by Jason Moss

Haikus

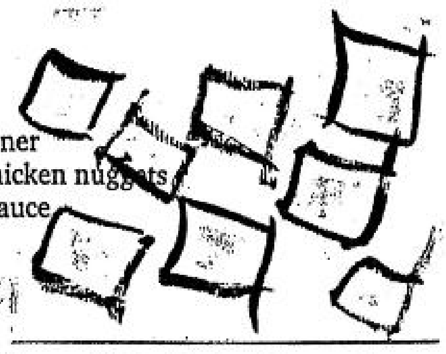
By Kathleen Baird

Everytime I try
I have trouble
It is very hard.

Chicken Nuggets

By Karel Abdi

We wait for dinner
We will have chicken nuggets
I eat with soy sauce

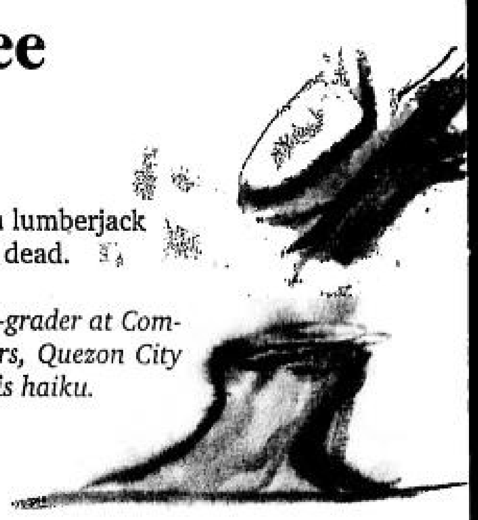


Kathleen, Jun-ha, and Karel were first-graders at International School Manila when they wrote these poems.

The Tree

By Ado Gaite

A beautiful tree
Got chopped by a lumberjack
And now may be dead.

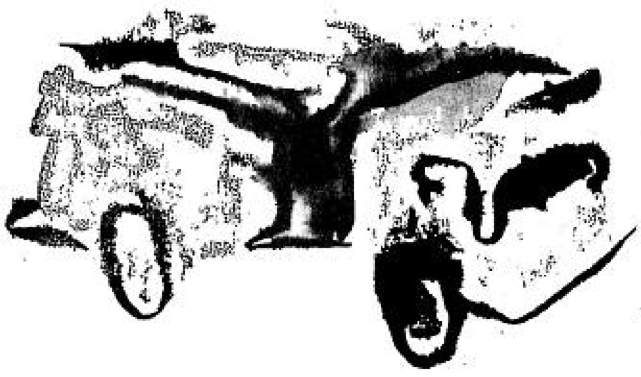


Ado was a fourth-grader at Community of Learners, Quezon City when he wrote this haiku.

Firetrucks

By Jun-ha Kim

There are big firetrucks
See them save everyone
They are very fast.

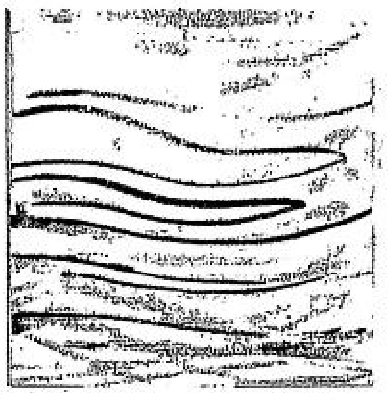


Homage to Life

By Nikki Ferriols

Waves of the ocean
Move serenely
and calmly
Rages in fury

Cool breeze
from the East
Meets with
the sun's tepid heat
Splashes on my face



Nikki is a student of Miriam College Grade School in Quezon City and a Merry Pens Staff member.

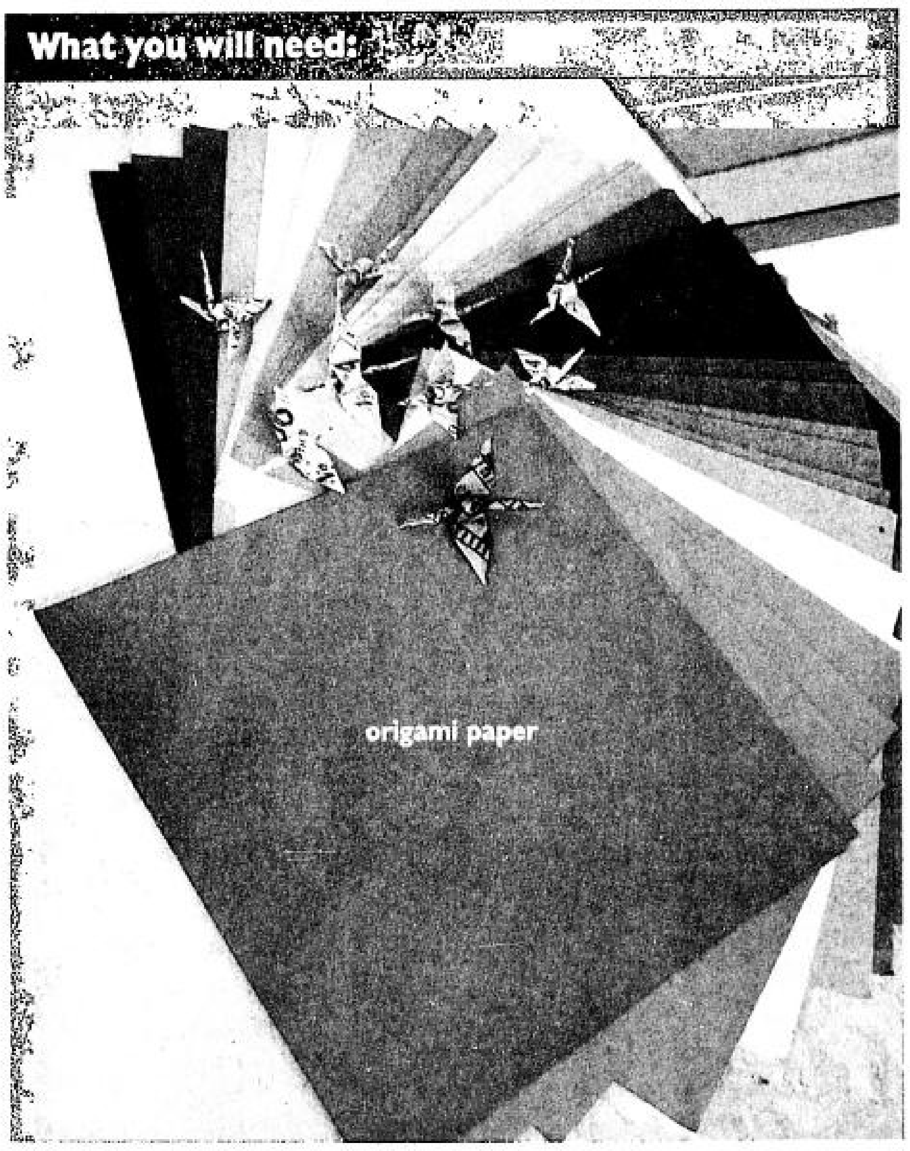
Ant

By Hsin Ru Yang

Ant, all so tiny,
In them, you'll see unity,
A good role model.

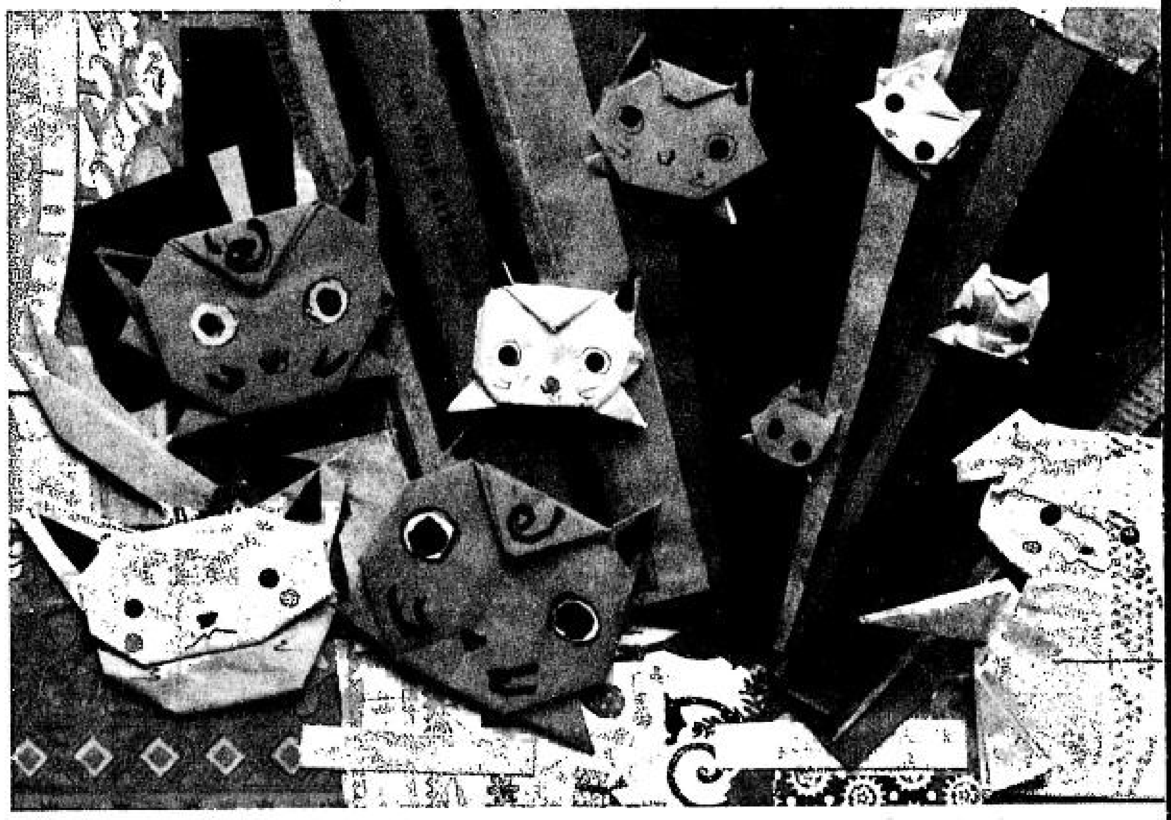
Hsin Ru Yang lives in Parañaque City.

What you will need:



Fold... fold... and a

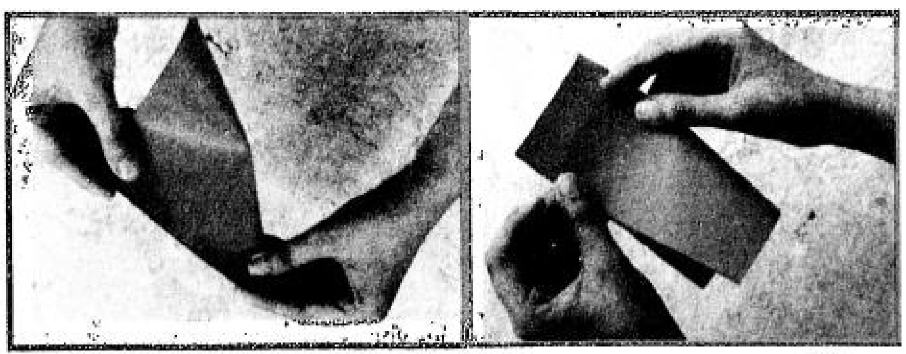
Send off your wishes with a classic Japanese paper cr



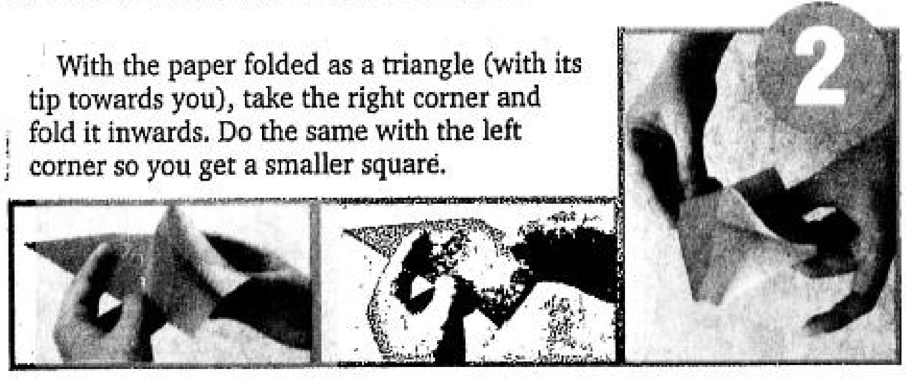
COLLECT them all! Origami Pokemon.

①

First create creases in a perfectly square piece of paper by folding it lengthwise, crosswise, as well as on its two diagonal lengths.

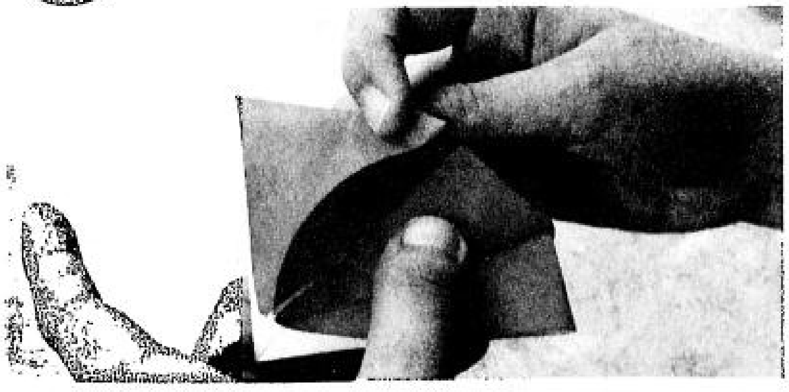


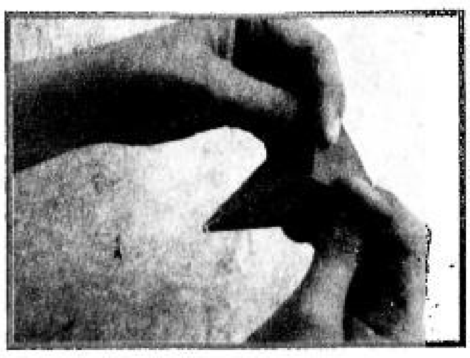
With the paper folded as a triangle (with its tip towards you), take the right corner and fold it inwards. Do the same with the left corner so you get a smaller square.



③

Take a flap from the open end of the square and fold its edge towards the center line. Do the same for all sides.



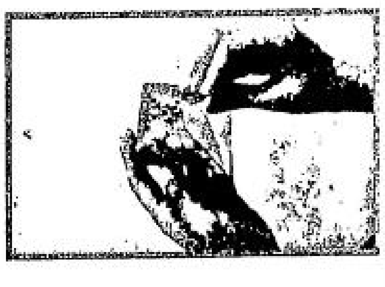


④

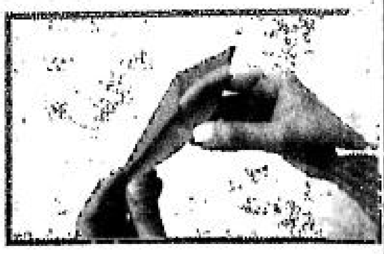
Fold the shorter triangle shape towards both sides of the paper to create creases.

⑤

Take one of the
Carefully fold the
an elongated diam
other side.



On the open end, take one
the center. Do the same for t



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

To my Father

By Gabriel Martin Doller

Captain of the ship,
Relentless in his duties,
Ever working hard.

A spring of knowledge,
Ever ready to advise,
With understanding.

The great provider,
Overflowing with kindness
Ever so willing.

The calm peacemaker,
Patiently soothing the tides,
Tranquil in all things.

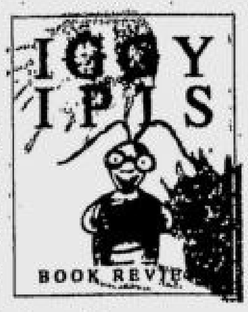
Finally, the heart,
Forever loving, caring
That is my father.

Gabriel studies at Ateneo de Manila Grade School.

***Haiku** is a form of Japanese poetry with 17-syllable verses divided into units of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.*

A "chain" of haikus is known as haikai, like the poem above. Haikais actually came first; haikus became an independent form of poetry only in the 1890s.

Iggy turning Japanese-y



MOSHI, moshi! Have I got good books for you.

"Si Pitong, Noong Panahon ng Mga Hapon" by Augie Rivera makes the Japanese occupation of our country very real.

The story tells of how a boy named Pitong experiences the war—first as an exciting faraway show, and then as a painful reality. His family flees their home, deals creatively with hunger, and endures separation.

Pitong and his family are very brave. Their story reminds me of how my great-great-great-grandparents crawled around the ruins of Manila scrounging for food.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes
ELEANOR COERR

Sadako's cranes

War just doesn't make sense to me. Whatever the outcome, both sides lose anyway!

"Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" by Eleanor Coerr shows how the Japanese were hurt in World War II as well.

It's a story about a happy, active girl named Sadako who could run like the wind. But her happiness is disturbed by a secret—bouts of dizziness which she ignores in the hopes it will go away.

It turns out that Sadako has what she fears most: atom bomb sickness.

While at the hospital, Sadako's best friend Chizuko visits her and brings a gift.

"Don't you remember the old story about the crane?" Chizuko asked. "It's supposed to live for a thousand years. If a person folds one thousand paper cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again."

And so starts Sadako's paper-folding quest for a cure to cancer.

The story is based on a real girl named Sadako Sasaki who died of leukemia in October 1955.

Even if you know how the story ends (and maybe shed a few tears like me) it's so beautifully written, you just have to read it! Really!

Three riddles

Can you make a coil of rope out of ashes, run a single thread through the length of a crooked log, and make a drum that sounds without being beaten?

THE WISE OLD WOMAN

If you want to know the answers, read "The Wise Old Woman." Retold by Yoshiko Uchida, the Japanese legend pits old age and wisdom against youth and arrogance.

The lord of the village declares that those over 70 are no longer useful and must be taken into the mountains to die. A farmer disobeys and hides his mother instead.

Then, one day, Lord Higa threatens to conquer their village unless someone can accomplish three impossible tasks...

I hope you enjoy these books as much as I did. Until our next library visit, sayonara!

away!

rane

REM ZAMORA

By Eline Santos

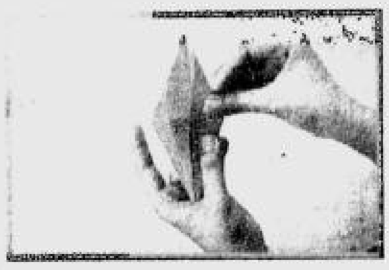
THE Japanese Embassy held an exhibit of origami works created by kids at the Museo Pambata ng Maynila last Feb. 5 to 19.

Origami is the art of paper folding. You can create anything from cranes to gift boxes to tree ornaments. Familiar anime characters like Pokemon and Astroboy can be made, too!

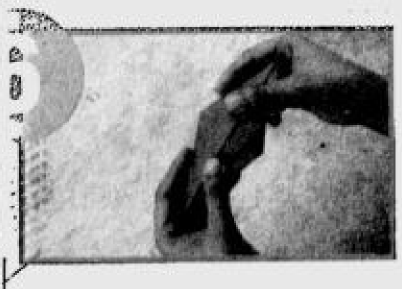
There is a saying that if you create a thousand cranes, the gods will grant you a wish. That may or may not be true but either way, have fun making one. Just follow the instructions below:

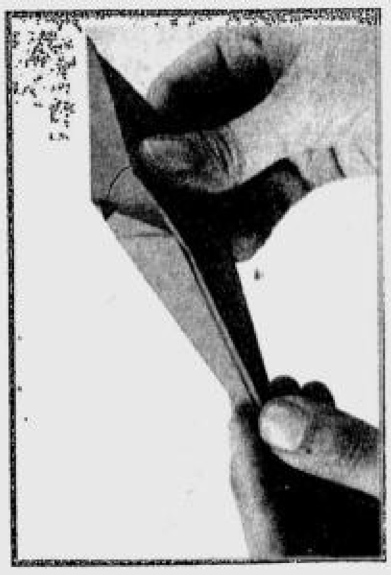
PRETTY in pink and in prayer. REM ZAMORA

long triangle ends and open it.
edges flat so that you now have
ond shape. Do the same for the



flap and fold the edge towards
e three remaining flaps.



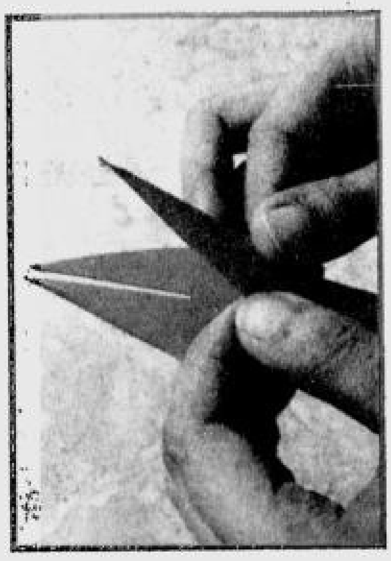


7

Fold the right flap over to the left side. Turn paper over. Again, fold the right flap to the left side.

8

Fold the closed tip towards the open end on both sides of the paper.



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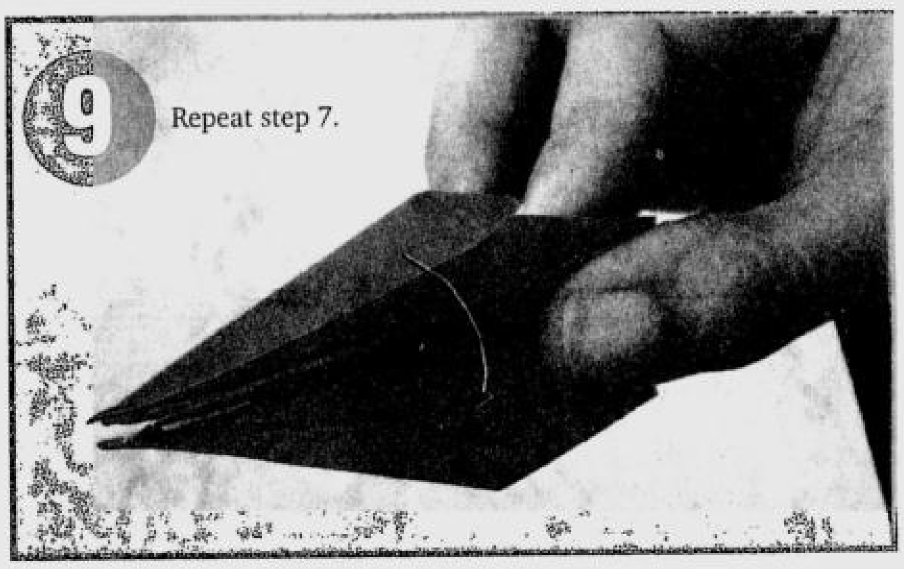
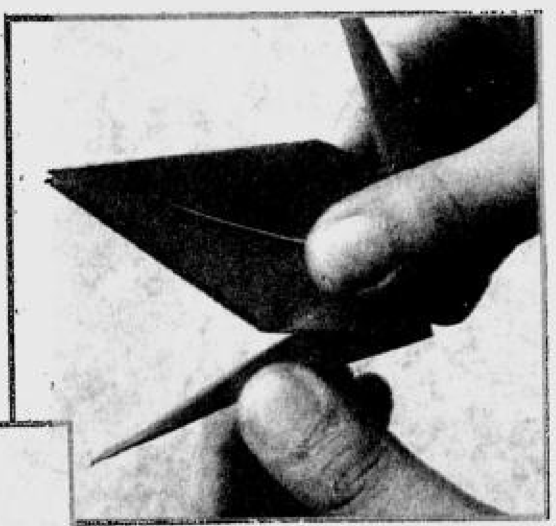
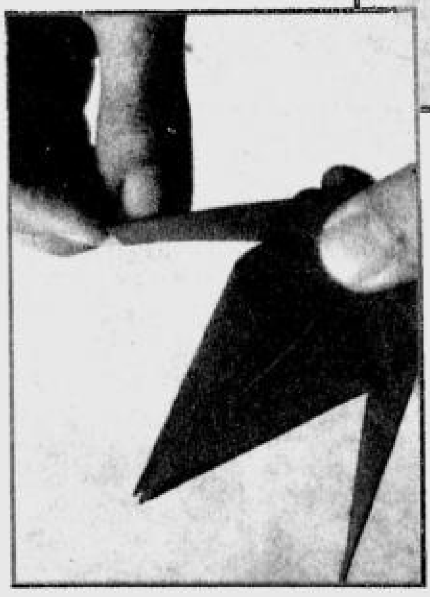


Repeat step 7.

10

Pull out the slim tips inside the almost-finished crane and fold at the bottom.



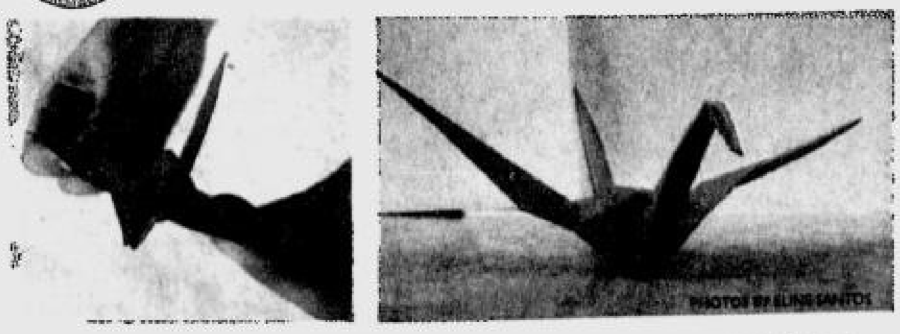


11

Invert fold one end to form the head.

12

Spread the wings and let your crane fly!



PHOTOS BY ELINE SANTOS

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Walking between two worlds

By Eline Santos

Kids'r'rrific

JESSICA Mae Tanzo, 13, and sister Anna Marie Grace, 14, were born in Japan and spent a good part of their lives there.

While they are Filipinos by citizenship, they could only speak English and Japanese when they first moved back here.

The change was a shock as Jessica recalls former classmates teaching her bad words when she was still learning to speak Tagalog.

While values are taught at Morning Star Montessori in Los Baños, Laguna, where Jessica studies, she says it's "useless if they're not being practiced."

One value she hopes Filipinos would pick up from the Japanese is cleanliness.

Her sister Anna, a student at Cahbriba Alternative School in Los Baños, gives an example: "Let's say you have a candy wrapper. If there's no trash can around, you put it in your pocket. Even if you forget about the trash in your pocket, that's where you have to put it, otherwise, the grown-ups will scold you."

Jessica adds it's not only the physical cleanliness but "hygiene in everything including inside—a clean mind."

ANNA and Jessica have the usual sibling rivalry but they have their sweet moments as well.

WHILE her origami works are good, Jessica says she draws better than she folds paper.

Learning Jap art

The Tanzo family picked up a lot of skills during their stay in Japan.

While their mother demonstrated how to make yummy dishes like *gyoza*, *yakisoba* noodles, and *tonjiru* at the Philajames Japanese Food Festival, the Tanzo sisters took care of the decorations.

Beautiful paper dolls and colorful balls of modular origami were on display. Most of the works were made by Anna, acknowledged as the better-skilled paper crafter.

Jessica, on the other hand, is said to be the better illustrator.

The waste paper from Jessica's manga-like artwork finds its way into Anna's handmade paper. Even the cardboard roll from toilet paper does not escape and is recycled.

Anna and Jessica's plea is for more tolerance of those who are different.

"*Siguro palawakin ang pagiisip nila*," says Anna. "*Iba kasi nakikita ko sa ibang mga tao. Parang* 'yuck,' *ganon ang* reaction *nila*."

"It's people's ignorance," adds Jessica. "When they see something new, that's how they react."

TWO of Anna's creations on display at the food fest. Some of the dolls, including her hand-made paper, is for sale. Anna has to get special paper from Japan to make these beauties.

PHOTOS BY ELINE SANTOS

Dahryll's Judo-ism

By Margaux C. Ortiz
and Jeusa V. Raflores
Contributors

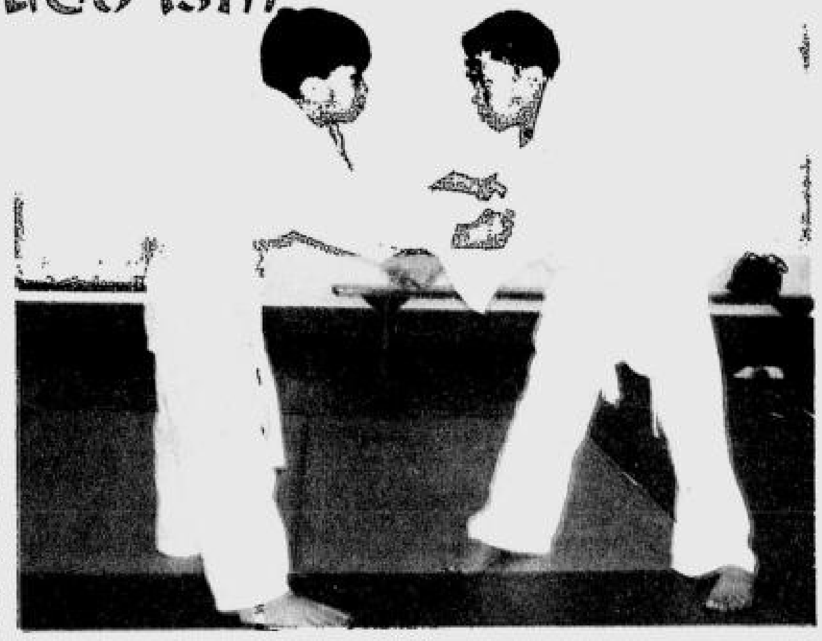
Name: Dahryll Lucero
Age: 13 **Grade:** 6
School: Aurora A. Quezon Elementary School, San Andres Bukid

Why he's terrific: Dahryll is so good at his sport that he's being groomed to compete in international judo competitions. Among his victories are four gold, two silver and four bronze medals from various contests. He has also been to eight national judo competitions.

Why he thinks judo rocks: "I learn self-defense so guns do not intimidate me anymore."

What he still wants to accomplish: Dahryll aims to compete in international judo competitions like his brother Aries who won a silver medal in the SEA games.

Cool advice: "Play well and always listen to your master."



DAHRYLL during training at the Judo National Training Center at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. JEUSA V. RAFLORES

BEYOND WORDS

Language is no barrier for Novie's love for song

By Eline Santos

Name: Novie Grace Barrera Jayme
Age: 11 **Grade:** 6
School: SPED Center for the Gifted, Olongapo

Why she's terrific: Music is a language Novie appreciates, whether it's Filipino, English—or Japanese! When she's not singing for the school choir, Novie is into Japanese pop songs. 'Joshi Kashimashi Monogatari" is her favorite tune, performed by Morning Musume, her favorite Japanese pop group.

Fave anime: Novie likes to watch "Gravitation," an anime about aspiring singer Shindou Suichi. While it isn't recommended for younger kids, Novie says she likes watching it because of the songs.

How she learns: "Kuya likes to play it over and over so we get to memorize the songs," says Novie. "I love to sing."

NOVIE enjoys math, reading, and music. ELINE SANTOS

Hiro's Welcome!

By Agay C. Llanera
Contributor

YOU can't get any more Japanese with a name like Hiroaki Sotooka. But believe it or not, this bubbly 14-year-old knows more Tagalog than Japanese, loves to eat tocino with ketchup, and enjoys exchanging Pinoy jokes with his friends.

But Hiro, as his family and friends call him, isn't a Japanese trapped in a Pinoy's body. In fact, he's half of both.

He was born in Tokyo, Japan but was raised here in the Philippines. His dad, Seiji Sotooka is Japanese while his mom, Cynthia Bautista-Sotooka is Filipina. Hiro says that his family, which also includes his younger sister Asami, likes it here because, "it's more relaxed. In Japan, everyone's so strict." When asked what his favorite thing about living in the Philippines is, Hiro readily answers, "My friends!"

HIRO with his best friend in Japan, Akito.

Like any other kid, Hiro likes going to the mall and playing computer games with his friends from school. Hiro has obviously inherited the Filipino trait of being friendly. "Filipinos are softhearted," he says. "My teachers are very kind. I'm very close to them," he grins. "Sometimes, I bring my lunch to the faculty room and eat there."

But sometimes, being half-Japanese among Filipinos is not so easy. "Some people like to tease me about the cruelty of the Japanese when they occupied the Philippines a long, long time ago", he confides. "Even if they're only joking, I still can't help feeling hurt."

One of his teachers helped him understand that what has happened in the past shouldn't affect him. "After that, I started being extra nice to people," he laughs. "I wanted to show them that the Japanese are good guys."

Once or twice a year, the Sotooka family visits their relatives in Japan. And from his visits, Hiro never runs out of stories to tell.

"My favorite part is during the New Year when my relatives give me *otoshidama*." Hiro explains that it's tradition for the kids to receive money from their elders during this time.

"I use my *otoshidama* to buy games for my Playstation, and *pasalubong* for my friends and teachers; I give the rest to my mom so she can put it in the bank."

During the holidays, he also enjoys frolicking in the snow, and eating afterwards.

"I like grilled fish and *onigari*. It's a rice ball with meat inside." He bonds with his Japanese grandmother by making *udong*, home-made fat noodles, which he also likes.

Hiro also has Japanese friends, but not as many as his Filipino friends.

"Only a few Japanese know how to speak in English, so it's hard to communicate there."

Akito, his best friend there, is one of the few English-speaking Japanese kids. Akito is also half-Japanese and half-Filipino.

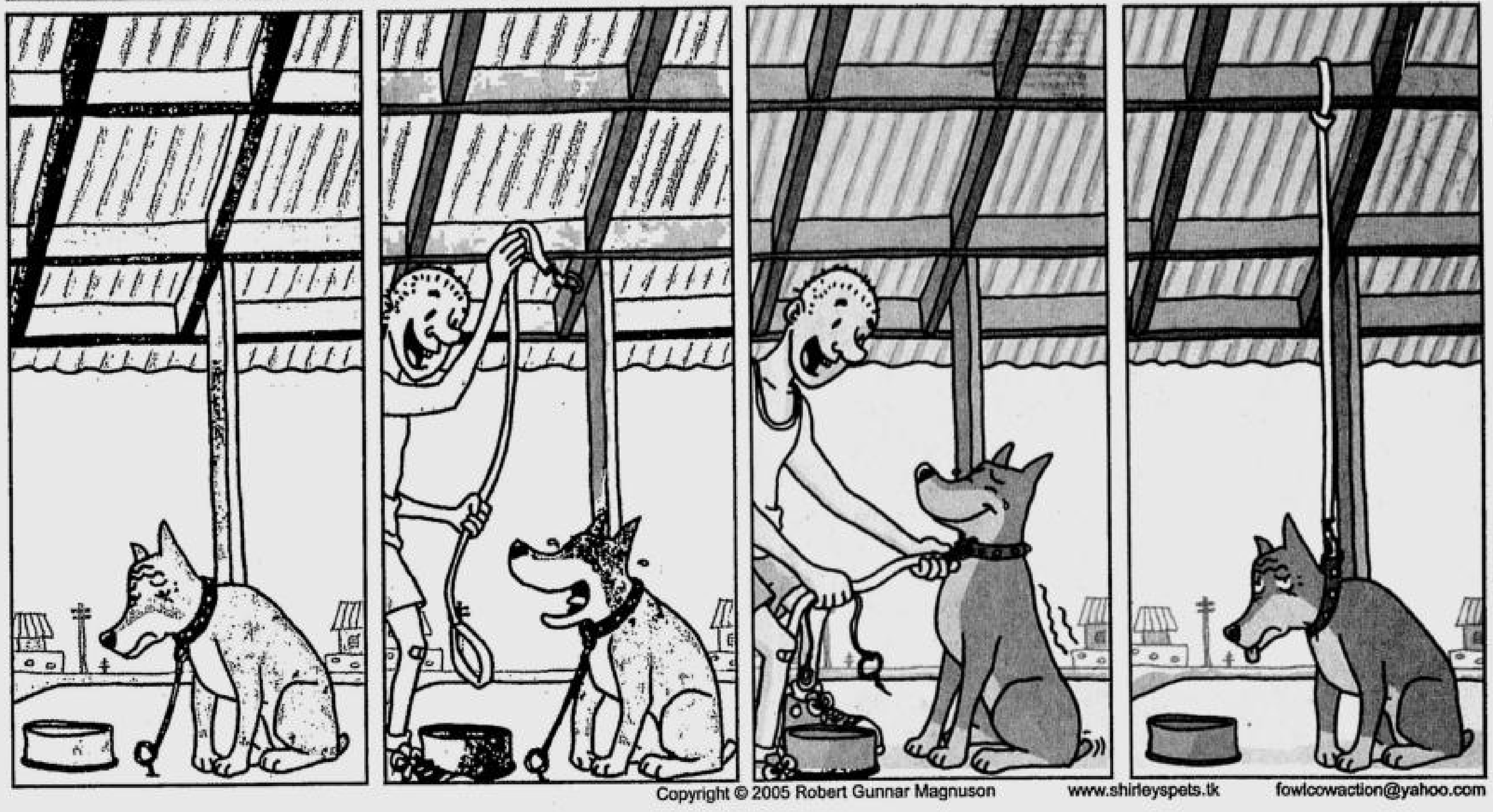
'Japanese kids really study hard, but they also like to play a lot," he shares. His mom adds, "Hiro also studies hard. When he has an exam, he wakes up

Hiro's Welcome/ p. 7

PIKACHU from "Pokemon" used to be his favorite anime character!

SHIRLEY'S PETS presents:
"Excerpt from the life of Lucky, the unfortunate pet..."

As observed and recorded by Robert Gunnar Magnuson



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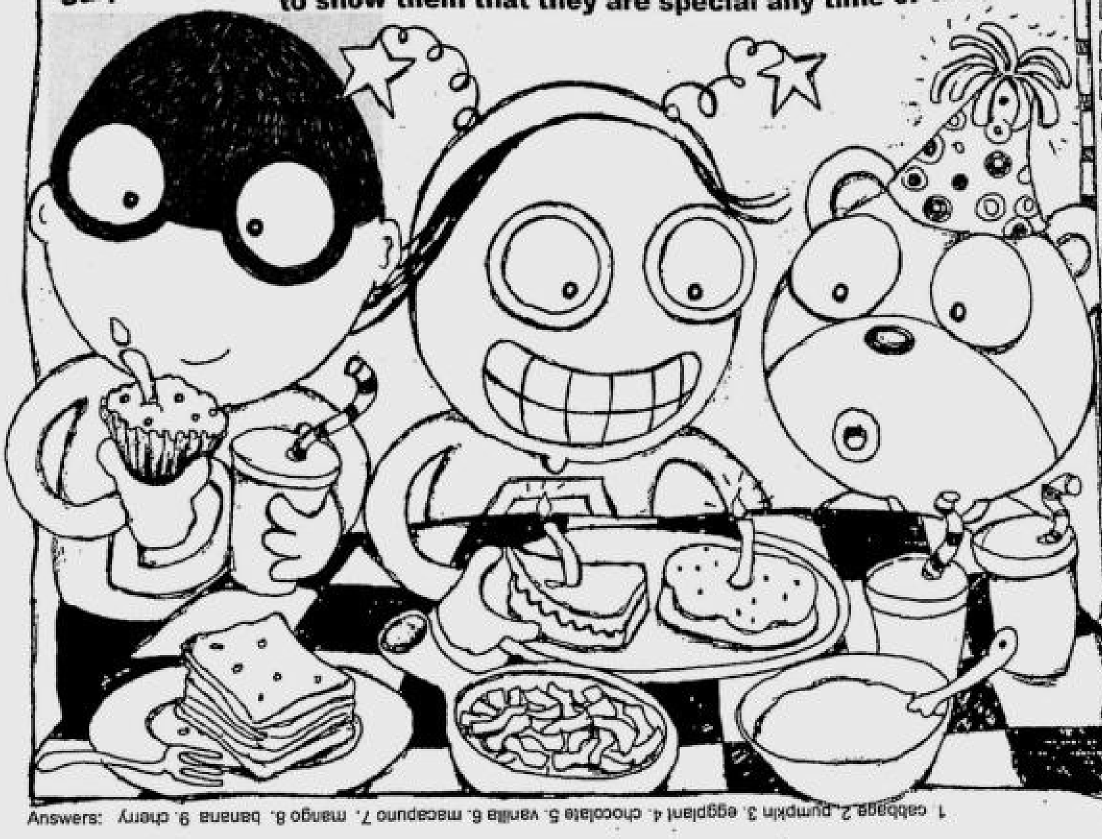
Atomo & Weboy
BUDDHA BEAR

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

It's an "un-B rthday party"!

It's not At m 's or Web y's or Super D's birthday but they still wanted to get together and have some fun! Maybe you can do that too! Surprise your parents with one! It may not be their birthday but it's good to show them that they are special any time of the year!



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GUESS WHAT'S ON THE MENU!

Use the Word Search above to fill in the missing letters in the menu below.

Un-Birthday Party Menu

Main course

Stir-fried __B___E
P___K__ soup
_G_P____ lasagna

Beverages

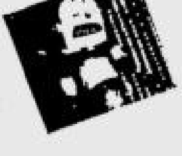
C___O__T_ soy milk
___IL__ shake
M______NO sherbet

Dessert

__N__ torte
____NA bread
C__RR_ cake

(Ooh, yummy!)

Answers: 1. cabbage 2. pumpkin 3. eggplant 4. chocolate 5. vanilla 6. macapuno 7. mango 8. banana 9. cherry

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH Got an event in April? Send us the info by March 15. Our fax number is 897-4811, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.		1 March is **Fire Prevention Month** Check out what's up on March 11.	2 Happy birthday, **Dr. Seuss**!	3 March was named after **Mars**, the Roman god of war and agriculture.	4	5 **10th Likhang Sining Contest** on-the-spot painting competition. To join, call 757-7117 or 753-3098.
6 Join **Madeline** in her Paris adventure in "Madeline-Lost in Paris," 11 a.m. on Cartoon Network.	7 **Alexander Graham Bell** receives a patent for the telephone.	8 **Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition exhibit,** March 8 -11 SM North Edsa	9 **Barbie** doll was first sold today at New York's annual Toy Fair in 1959.	10	11 **FIREFIGHTING DEMO,** 10 a.m. at Museo Pambata. Learn fire prevention tips from the experts.	12
13	14 The genius **Albert Einstein** was born today. So was cutie **Taylor Hanson.**	15 The "Ides of March" in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" referred to the 15th of March.	16 **"ROBOTS"** opens in theaters today. 	17	18	19 **BANANA FESTIVAL** Baco, Mindoro Oriental
20	21 Be part of the **Fully Booked Junior Book Crew**, open to bookworms 11-16 yrs. old. This is the last day of application. Call 751-0381 to 83.	22 **Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition exhibit** SM North Edsa.	23	24 **Today is no-TV day !**	25 **GOOD FRIDAY** The Latin word for fish is "pesco."	26
27	28 **FULLY BOOKED WORKSHOPS** Make Cool Caps and Hippy Hats. Call 751-0381 to 83 for info.	29 Learn cake and cookie decoration.	30 **3rd Annual Art Start Summer Workshop** at Fully Booked bookstore. Register by calling 751-0381 to 83.	31 Rock on! **Avril Lavigne** visits Manila.		

Compiled by Christine A. Paita Art by Steph Bravo

PHOTOS TAKEN FROM THE PDI FILES, AND THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES: WWW.NOBELPRIZE.ORG, WWW.MMBOPTASTIC.COM, WWW.ORLANDOCITYBEAT.COM.

Oh Japan!

(from page 1)

tune "Sweet Soul Revue," and a weird chicken song from Cibbo Matto.

Forget messy, real pets—having a virtual pet was much more fun! A Tamagochi wasn't just a toy, it was a keychain... with responsibilities. Tamagochis were the ancestors of today's Pokemon monsters which became a big hit around the world—enough to have its own movie in English! Pikachu pikachu!

The turn of the century also gave birth to a much more active anime industry. Full-length movies like "Akira" and "Ghost in the Shell" became box-office hits around the world while, in the Philippines, circles of anime enthusiasts grew bigger and bigger. Now, almost all major universities have their own anime/manga or Japanese culture clubs!

J-Fashion also became a big hit. It was considered cool to sport a "Japanese haircut" even if your hair didn't look cut at all, and to wear mismatching socks or really funky shirts.

If the '80s had "Japan Video Topics," the '90s had the WINS channel's "Oh Tokyo!" Every week, a Filipina host showed the best of contemporary Japanese culture and cuisine. Wowow!

You may only know of the more recent imports like "Yu-gi-oh!" and "Beyblades," but our Asian neighbor has been in our homes and everyday lives since the days of our dads and moms. If you feel you've missed out on these great classics, never fear, because Jap pop culture is here to stay. Why, just recently, Voltes V came back to save the day from evil Bozanians who now speak Tagalog! Let's volt in!

Hiro's Welcome

(from page 6)

extra early to study."

Aside from his studying habits, Hiro's Japanese side also comes out in his care for personal belongings.

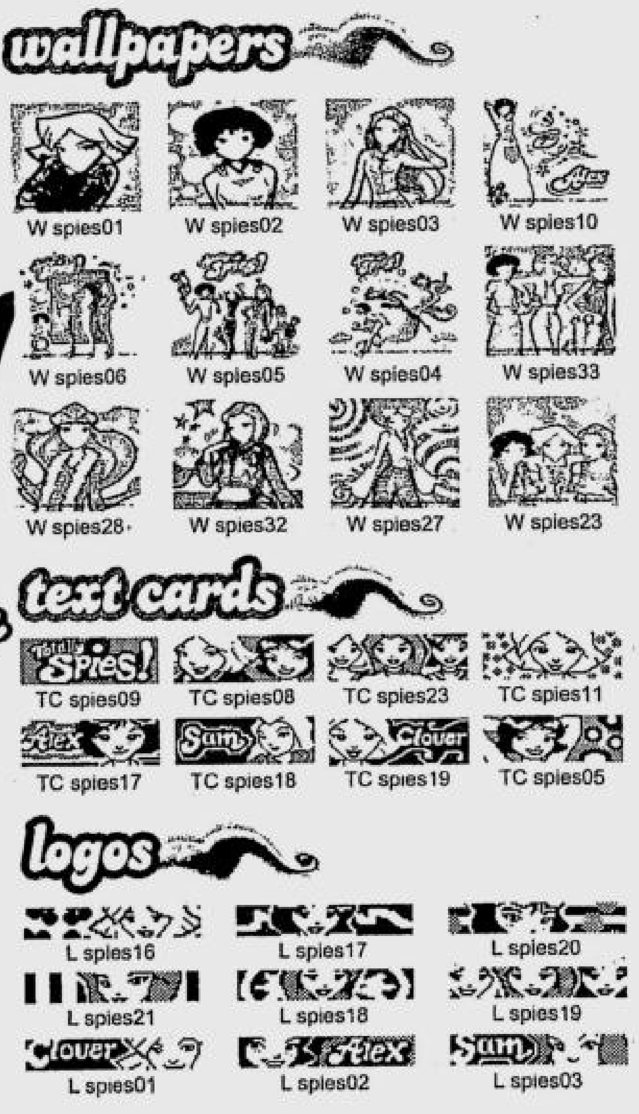
"His room is always tidy," Tita Cynthia reveals. "When he loses something, he won't stop looking until he finds it."

If he has to choose between staying in Japan or in the Philippines, Hiro says he'd rather stay here. But next school year, he'll be going to a different school, in a different country. "I'm going to New York to continue my studies," he says, "but I'll come back here from time to time to visit."

But it shouldn't matter much where Hiro finally decides to stay. Wherever he goes with his ready smile and enjoyable stories on his Filipino-Japanese heritage, Hiro is sure to be always welcome.

Totally Spies!™
3
2
1...

Spy on these totally cool downloads!



wallpapers

W spies01 W spies02 W spies03 W spies10
W spies06 W spies05 W spies04 W spies33
W spies28 W spies32 W spies27 W spies23

text cards

TC spies09 TC spies08 TC spies23 TC spies11
TC spies17 TC spies18 TC spies19 TC spies05

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